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Hundreds evacuated

Major brush fire destroys homes in Spryfield area

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
for Metro Halifax

Plumes of smoke filled the skies above Halifax Regional Municipality as residents were forced out of their homes Thursday as a brush fire swept through one of the city's outlying communities.

Divisional Capt. Dave Meldrum of Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Service said crews started responding to smoke and flames in the Spryfield area early in the afternoon. By dinnertime, he said there were about 20 fire trucks and 60 fire fighters still battling the blaze, with "several" homes impacted by the wind-fuelled force.

Although the Canadian Red Cross said at least a dozen homes had been damaged or destroyed by Thursday night, Meldrum said no major injuries or missing persons had been reported. He said crews made progress as the wind died down and humidity improved, but added "this thing is not yet considered under control."

But by 9 p.m., another fire department spokesman said the blaze was mostly under control, adding residential areas were no longer at risk.

The Red Cross said nearly 330 homes around Herring Cove Road and Purcells Cove Road near Fergusons Cove were evacuated. Displaced residents were welcome to seek shelter at the Captain William Spry Community Centre on Kidston Road,

Cause unknown

- Divisional Capt. Dave Meldrum of Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Service couldn't say whether Thursday's blaze was a continuation from a fire in the same area Wednesday evening, or "a second fire."
- He said crews fought the Wednesday fire for about three hours, with a Department of Natural Resources helicopter dumping water on a 20-hectare patch of land between Roachs Pond and McIntosh Run. It was believed that that blaze was caused by human activity.

where the organization's emergency response team was on hand to help.

Natural Resources spokeswoman Jennifer Gavin said the provincial department supplied three helicopters and ground crews Thursday, while three water bombers were brought in from New Brunswick to assist.

Paramedics and police also responded.

It wasn't long ago that local emergency crews responded to another major brush blaze. Last spring, a forest fire that started in Porters Lake forced thousands of people in the area to flee their homes.



A Halifax fire and emergency services member looks on as a blazing fire narrowly bypasses a home Thursday in Spryfield. The brush fire swept through the Spryfield area, destroying several homes.

Situation 'all-out chaos,' local says

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
for Metro Halifax

FIRE Spryfield resident Henry Eisenhauer said he's never seen anything quite like the massive fire he saw from his window Thursday afternoon.

"It's all-out chaos," he said over the phone from his Greystone Drive home, just off of Herring Cove Road. "There are people all over the sides of the roads."

He said police officers and fire fighters were also all over the place, trying to control both people and the blaze itself.

"I have seen high flames, reaching at least 100 feet," Eisenhauer said, adding dark billowing smoke seemed to reach up into the sky for thousands of feet.

Fortunately, he said his home wasn't at risk by early Thursday evening.

A man who was evacuated told media on the scene

that he had to leave his dog and bird behind because he had to flee his home so quickly. He said emergency crews should have warned residents sooner.

"I could have done something about my house — I could have gotten the animals out," he said.

CBC News later reported that he was able to return to his house, which hadn't been touched by the fire. Some of his neighbours weren't so lucky.

Conspiracy claims not seen as true

SWINE FLU Dead pigs in China, evil factory farms in Mexico and an al-Qaida plot involving Mexican drug cartels are a few wild theories seeking to explain a deadly swine flu outbreak that has killed up to 176 people.

Nobody knows for sure, but scientists say the origins are in fact far less sinister and are likely explained by the ability of viruses to mutate and jump from species to species as animals and people increasingly live closer to each other.

"The pig has been considered the mixing bowl of influenza viruses. Both avian flu and pig flu viruses have spread via the pig to humans," Paul Yeo, a virologist at Durham University in Britain, said Thursday.

"The problem now with this virus is that it has picked up a mixture of elements, now including human elements. It's a complex virus." REUTERS

MORE COVERAGE PGS 3, 4 & 6

Local pg 3

Four more flu cases in N.S.

Sports pg 10

Crosby vs. Ovechkin

On the web

Grit convention

- Follow Parveen Sandur's blog from the federal Liberal convention in Vancouver at metronews.ca.
- For news updates from the convention, see metronews.ca.

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The province is investing in a Nova Scotia company that manufactures equipment used around the world for plastic packaging. Economic and Rural Development has announced a \$2-million interest-bearing loan for GN Thermoforming. The loan is through the Industrial Expansion Fund. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Jean d'Entremont appointed chair

For the first time in its 30-year history, the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women has elected an Acadian chair. Argyle's Jean d'Entremont, who has long been involved in women's issues and Acadian heritage, was inducted into the position yesterday during a morning ceremony at Province House in Halifax.

METRO HALIFAX

House reconvenes amid election talk



Deputy Premier Angus MacIsaac, left, and Premier Rodney MacDonald chat as the Nova Scotia House of Assembly reconvened Thursday with speculation of an upcoming election hanging over the session.

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

With a government defeat seemingly inevitable, the Nova Scotia legislature kicked off to a raucous start Thursday.

After trading salvos, the house of assembly broke down into a shouting match in the middle of question period.

Liberal MLA Vicky Conrad was trying to ask a question when heckling back and forth drowned her out. Both NDP Leader Darrell Dexter and Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil, among many opposition members, loudly accused the government of hiding their budget.

"I'll table that budget right now," yelled Finance Minister Jamie Muir while pounding his desk.

McNeil responded with "Then stand up and do it!"

After trying and failing to restore order, speaker of the house Alfie MacLeod eventually regained control.

"Everyone take a deep breath," he said after raising to his feet.

The outburst came after the government and opposition spent the morning accusing each other of forcing an election. Yesterday the Tories tabled a bill to change finance laws and give them another \$100 million in budget room.

The Conservatives say they had to spend the money to save jobs. The opposition say they're trying to cook the books to cover up for falling into deficit.

An election will be triggered if neither opposition party supports the bill. Both the NDP and Liberals have refused to do that.

Muir speculated the opposition might change its mind, but that idea was quickly rejected.

"He's now wanting us to participate in changing the law retroactively to cover their mismanagement," McNeil said. "I told them months ago I wasn't willing to do that. I don't know what more I can say."

Debate on the bill begins Friday and will likely run into next week, unless the Tories decide to call an election over the weekend.

Provincial justice system no laughing matter: MLA

RELEASES Nova Scotia's justice system has turned into the "punch line" of a bad joke, The New Democrats said Thursday.

"It's a comedy of errors, and not one single Nova Scotian is laughing," Bill Estabrooks, MLA for Timberlea-Prospect and his party's justice critic, said in a news release. He was responding to a series of mistakes made by the Justice Department, including

"It's a comedy of errors, and not one single Nova Scotian is laughing."

Bill Estabrooks, MLA

two prisoners who were accidentally released from custody this spring and most recently, a man was kept behind bars for two months too long.

Justice Department spokeswoman Sherri Aikenhead told CBC News last week that a paperwork error is to blame for a mentally ill prisoner serving 60 extra days inside the Burnside Correctional Facility.

"The Rodney MacDonald government can't keep prisoners in jail who should be there, and keep(s) those who shouldn't (be) longer than they should," Estabrooks said.

Although the man has reportedly received an apology, he hasn't asked for any compensation.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE / FOR METRO HALIFAX

Fed funds arriving 'come what may': MacKay

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

On the brink of an election, Nova Scotia received a large bundle of infrastructure money Thursday

from the federal government. But this time it might hurt the premier more than help him.

Federal cabinet minister Peter MacKay and Premier Rodney MacDonald co-announced a \$136-million joint investment in various shovel-ready infrastructure projects. The province, and in some cases municipalities, must match national funds.

The premier has frequently tried to ward off an election by saying it would



Peter MacKay

25 economic stimulus projects for universities, colleges

• Halifax universities are getting big bucks for campus construction, the federal and provincial Tories announced Thursday.

Dalhousie University will see \$27 million to fix up its Life Sciences Building and Saint Mary's University will receive just over \$22 million to modernize its McNally Building, a news release said. Those are just two of 25 economic stimulus projects for post-secondary institutions across the province.

stop the province from leveraging federal money. But MacKay seemed to dispute that Thursday, saying the money was coming one way or another.

"The money is secure. Come what may, these projects are going to get underway in weeks, we hope, if not days," MacKay said. "This

In total, the province and its universities are contributing \$57.2 million through the Building for Growth stimulus plan, while the federal government is funding \$56.8 million under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, for a total of \$114 million.

"In the short term, the projects will create and maintain jobs," Premier Rodney MacDonald said in the release. "In the long term, they will further

contribute to the high quality of our post-secondary education system and the future prosperity of our province."

Across the municipality, NSCAD is getting just over \$4 million and Mount Saint Vincent University is receiving \$3.4 million. Nova Scotia Community College campuses across the province will see \$17.5 million for infrastructure projects.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE / FOR METRO HALIFAX

is rock-solid money. This is money that is dedicated to the province of Nova Scotia."

Until a provincial budget has been passed for this fiscal year, departments can only spend up to 50 per cent of the previous year's budget.

MacDonald stood by his view that an election would hurt the province, saying

there is a narrow window to kick-start the economy.

"You need all of the partners involved in order to make a project happen," he said. "We have a \$1.9-billion plan. Most of that is in the first two years. If we can't start projects right away we're going to miss the short construction season."

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What's online today.

Video Father-son soldiers fly side by side in Afghanistan at metronews.ca/canada

Video Stephen Harper spends his birthday with a flock of flamingos and defending his government's investment in Chrysler at metronews.ca/canada

News in brief

LAND BID The province said Thursday it has offered to buy more than 21,000 acres of land owned by J.D. Irving Limited in

western Nova Scotia. Irving is selling 170,000 acres of land in this region through seal bids. The province is purchasing

what it calls "high priority" land to Nova Scotia. That includes forestry and resource lands, recreational areas for hunting,

fishing and canoeing, lakes and rivers, and the New France heritage site, also known as Electric City. **METRO HALIFAX**

Website gives access to provincial history

Nova Scotians interested in the history of the provincial government can now access a completely revised and updated version of the web product, Government Administrative Histories Online. The site can be accessed at www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/gaho. **METRO HALIFAX**

Four more flu cases

Provincial total up to eight, health officer expects more

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

Four new Nova Scotian cases of swine flu, now referred to as influenza A (H1N1) by the World Health Organization, were confirmed Thursday, bringing the total in the province to eight.

All are students at Windsor's King's-Edgemoor and have recovered or are recovering, the province's



Dr. Robert Strang

chief health officer said. "We are not seeing severe cases such as have

been experienced in Mexico," said Dr. Robert Strang. "We expect to continue to see new cases and spread beyond King's-Edgemoor across the province. As with normal flu, as we see the numbers increase it's quite probable that we will see more severe cases and potentially even some deaths."

Strang repeated his instructions to the public: wash your hands often, cough and sneeze into your sleeve and, if you

have flu-like symptoms, stay home. There's no need to wear masks and he recommended against anti-viral treatments in the absence of flu symptoms.

People hit with flu after a recent trip to Mexico or after sustained contact with someone confirmed with influenza A should self-isolate for seven days from the onset of symptoms. If symptoms worsen, they should seek medical care.

Local firm wins tidal turbine bid

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
for Metro Halifax

FUNDY Nova Scotia is primed to become a global leader in tidal power, Energy Minister Barry Bannister said Thursday.

"I am hopeful that (the Bay of) Fundy will become the world's ultimate testing ground for tidal energy devices," he said inside the Cherubini Metal Works plant on Pleasant Street. "I want people to say: 'it's built to the Fundy standard.'"

Bannister made that claim at a press conference announcing that the Dartmouth firm has won a \$1.7 million contract to build a subsea base for a turbine that will whip up tidal waves from the bottom of the bay. The turbine is the first of its kind to be installed in Canadian waters by Dublin-based company OpenHydro and, according to the province, will be the height of a two-storey home and could generate enough electricity for 800 homes when it's secured to the



Nova Scotia Energy Minister Barry Bannister speaks Thursday at a press conference announcing the Dartmouth firm Cherubini Metal Works has won a \$1.7-million contract to build a subsea base for a turbine that will whip up tidal energy from the bottom of the Bay of Fundy.

ocean floor this fall. "We're going to deploy this unit and learn from it," said Nick Murphy of OpenHydro.

Murphy called the Bay of Fundy "a uniquely powerful resource," since it's one of the strongest tidal sites in the world. It will also be "one of the toughest sites," he said, with challenges such as working with ice and murky waters. "I think if it will work here it will

work pretty much anywhere."

Cherubini and OpenHydro aren't the only companies working on test turbines, as Minas Basin Pulp and Power has partnered with Marine Current Turbines in the United Kingdom and Canadian company Clean Current Turbines is also putting together a project. The province says all three in-stream turbines, which differ from tradition-

al turbines, must undergo environmental assessments before they can be placed in the proposed Minas Passage site.

Nova Scotia Power president Rob Bennett said trying out different prototypes for the renewable energy resource "is really about understanding how the machines will work, but also understanding what impact they will have on the environment."

SPCA seeks owner of cat injured in fall

VET The Metro SPCA is asking for the public's assistance in finding the owner of a cat injured falling from at least the third floor of an apartment building at 6969 Bayer's Rd. in Halifax last week.

The SPCA says the HRM Animal Services received a call at 10:30 p.m. last Friday from the building's superintendent who said somebody on a second floor apartment witnessed a cat falling from above. The witness said the cat hit the concrete and then later dragged herself under a nearby car.

The cat was later taken to the Metro Animal Emergency Clinic and was diagnosed with a broken leg



The SPCA is looking for help in finding this injured cat's owner.

and bruised bladder. It's currently in stable condition at the Eastern Passage Veterinary Clinic.

So far, no one has come forward to find this missing cat, with staff at the SPCA naming her Hope. Anyone with information is asked to contact 835-4798.

METRO HALIFAX

Protesters rally against private childcare chain's opening

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
for Metro Halifax

CHILDREN It's the fast-food version of childcare, protesters said Thursday of a national company now opening its doors in the city's north end.

A dozen people lined Barrington Street, holding up a makeshift golden arch and large building blocks symbolizing big box business, while Kids and Company held its Halifax open house.

"McDonald's, to me, is convenient and quick, but it's a question of quality. We don't want to question the quality of childcare," said Lynn Howes, president of CUPE Local 4745 and herself an early childhood educator at the North End Community Day Care Centre on Russell Street.

Howes said the union is also concerned about the

Kids and Company

• Trish McCourt said Kids and Company at 3260 Barrington St. has its final licensing inspection next week and will open for business soon after.

province funding for-profit chains, instead of local childcare operators.

Site operator Trish McCourt said Kids and Company's Halifax location will meet and exceed Nova Scotia standards.

"There are waiting lists everywhere and I think Kids and Company can respond to that need."

She said the daycare offers competitive prices and salaries, while addressing unique learning needs including infant programs and individualized curriculum, "which is what all early childhood advocates would (want) to see."

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China and Russia once again lead the list of countries with the worst record on preventing piracy and counterfeiting of U.S. goods, the U.S. Trade Representatives office said Thursday. In addition, USTR said it was putting Canada on the "priority watch list." REUTERS

Canada



Ex-Canuck talks on Pope's comment

Former Vancouver Canuck Gino Odjick, an Algonquin from Maniwaki, Que., said that being at the Vatican this week to hear the Pope express his sorrow for the "anguish" Canadian Aboriginals suffered in residential schools was bigger than any hockey game he's ever played.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

ENVIRONMENT Canada's species at highest risk — caribou, spotted owls and the freshwater kidneyshell mussel — remain under threat because the federal government is failing to use its own laws to protect them, says a coalition of environmental groups. A report card released by environmentalists gave Canada a failing grade for "ducking its own laws" by not using the safeguards in its Species At Risk Act. "In the absence of habitat protection for at-risk species, habitat degradation continues," says the report. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

DRUG USE Many teenagers who smoke marijuana are trying to find a way to cope with mental and physical problems, not to get high, Canadian researchers said. Dr. Joan L. Bortoff, of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and her team found that adolescents who use marijuana to deal with depression, grief, stress or anxiety, have no other option. "We really need to pay attention to adolescents who are experiencing concerns about their health, who are having difficulties, and we need to work with them to find alternatives," she said. **REUTERS**

Ottawa Harper turns 50



Prime Minister Stephen Harper looks at plastic flamingos placed on the front lawn of his official residence, 24 Sussex Drive, while walking with his daughter Rachel in Ottawa Thursday. Staffers placed 50 plastic flamingos on the lawn to mark Harper's 50th birthday.

More flu cases are expected

Results must still come in

Influenza A (H1N1) continues to march across Canada with 34 confirmed, but mild cases across five provinces — and infectious disease experts say this may be the tip of the iceberg.

In Canada, there have been 15 new confirmed positive cases of the flu, formally referred to as swine flu, since Wednesday, bringing the total to 34. British Columbia has five new cases, Alberta four, there are another four in Nova Scotia, one in Ontario and one in Quebec. But more cases are expected as test results from nasal swab samples become available.

In Vernon, B.C., 500 students at a French immersion elementary school were sent home for the week after one of their classmates tested positive for the swine flu after a trip to Mexico. It's the first school closure reported in Canada. The student who tested positive is experiencing a mild case of the flu and is at home recovering, said Dr. Perry Kendall, B.C.'s provincial health officer.

The swine flu virus originated in pigs, and has genes from human, bird and pig viruses. Scientists don't know exactly how it jumped to humans.

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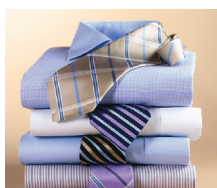
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the **Bay**



Hundreds of families fled Pakistan's Buner valley on Thursday as security forces battled through mountain passes to evict Taliban fighters, whose advance towards Islamabad had sown alarm. The military mounted an offensive on Tuesday after the Taliban had crept from their stronghold in the adjoining Swat valley. **REUTERS**

Families flee battle zone in Pakistani valley

World



Egypt culls pigs amid flu fears

Egypt started slaughtering herds of pigs on Thursday as a precaution against swine flu, despite resistance by farmers. The United Nations said the mass cull of up to 400,000 pigs was "a real mistake" because the new strain — a mix of swine, avian and human viruses — has not been found in pigs. **REUTERS**

Flu could be 'drastic': IMF

The economic impact from the Influenza A (H1N1) virus, often referred to as swine flu, could be "quite drastic" in some countries, the International Monetary Fund's chief economist said Thursday.

Addressing the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, IMF chief economist Olivier Blanchard said it was clear tourism volumes will be affected. He indicated it was too early to say what the impact of the outbreak will be on the global economy, which is in deep recession. "Is it something that is

Shutdown defied

- A major Mexican factory association said Thursday that plants will operate May 1-5 despite a government call for a shutdown of swaths of the economy.

potentially of the scale of the current crisis we have? The information that we have at this stage is it is a relatively minor (economic) event," Blanchard added.

Mexico's central bank warned the outbreak could deepen the nation's recession, hurting an economy

that has already shrunk by as much as eight per cent from the previous year.

The new flu virus has killed up to 176 people in Mexico and cases have been reported in the U.S., Latin America and Europe. Global markets were taking the news of swine flu, which the World Health Organization officially renamed to influenza A (H1N1) Thursday, in stride.

But if the outbreak shuts down trade, the cost to the global economy could reach trillions of dollars, World Bank studies have estimated. **REUTERS**

Economic activity halted in Mexico

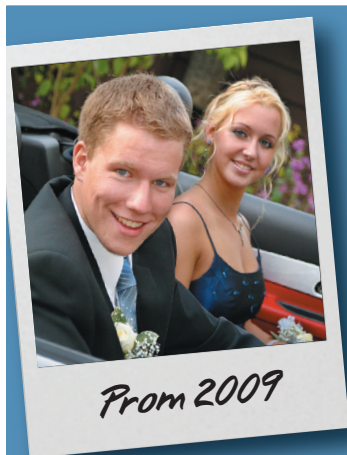
Mexico's president ordered a partial economic shutdown to slow the spread of the H1N1 flu virus Thursday.

President Felipe Calderon told government offices and private businesses not crucial to the economy to stop work today until May 5 to avoid further spreading a virus that is striking across age and class lines.

Apeldoorn Tragedy at parade



Dutch Princess Maxima, left, and Prince Willem-Alexander look on after a car deliberately ploughed into a royal parade that included Queen Beatrix on Thursday, killing five people and injuring 12, officials said. None of the royals were hurt.



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Clinton denies aid to N. Korea

POLITICS U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Thursday the United States had no plans to give North Korea economic aid and Pyongyang was digging a "deeper and deeper" hole by its latest actions.

She was defending a budget request for nearly \$100 million for future economic aid to North Korea. Last December, the U.S. suspended fuel aid to the energy-starved North until it agreed to specific steps to verify its nuclear activities, which Pyongyang refused to do. **REUTERS**

'Loner' gunman kills 13 at university in Azerbaijan

SHOOTING Thirteen people were killed at a university in Azerbaijan on Thursday when a gunman went from floor to floor firing on teachers and students after the bell rang for morning classes.

The gunman, a Georgian citizen of Azerbaijani origin described as a loner by local media, was among the dead. The government said it did not see a politi-

cal motive behind the shooting at the prestigious State Oil Academy in the capital city of Baku.

A security guard and a cleaner were killed before the gunman opened fire on students and teachers. A witness said one student had tried to stop the gunman, approaching him and shouting: "Don't shoot, don't shoot!" He was shot in the head. **REUTERS**

News in brief

THEORIES Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa said on Thursday his government had no intention of a ceasefire with Tamil Tiger rebels, telling critics the military's actions constituted a "humanitarian operation". Sri Lanka has been under fresh pressure this week, to al-

low a ceasefire so civilians trapped in the tiny area the Tigers still hold can escape.

SAUDI ARABIA A 50-year old Saudi man has agreed to divorce his nine-year-old bride, media reported on Thursday, after the marriage drew international criticism. **REUTERS**

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Comment & Views

Comment

Hidden worlds of HRCs

Freedom is a Canadian value that we shouldn't give up



Ezra Levant

Three years ago I was the publisher of a magazine that printed pictures of some Danish cartoons of Muhammad. They were newsworthy because those cartoons sparked riots in the Muslim world that killed more than 100 people. We wanted to show our readers what all the fuss was about.

But by doing so, I was charged by the government of Alberta with "hate speech," and prosecuted for 900 days by 15 government lawyers and bureaucrats at Alberta's human rights commission (HRC). I was finally acquitted, but not before spending

\$100,000 in legal fees.

Funny: I thought freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion were human rights!

While I was being hunted by the government because of my political views, I researched these HRCs and discovered a whole underground legal system — 14 commissions across the country, with 1,000 full-time staff, and an annual budget of \$200 million. HRCs rarely make the news, and their procedures are nothing like real courts. They're not even run by real judges, and they lack the procedural checks and balances to make sure we don't commit injustices.

Perhaps the most terrify-

ing thing I learned in my research was that in the 32 years that the federal Canadian Human Rights Commission has been prosecuting "hate speech" cases, not a single person had ever been acquitted of the charge. A 100 per cent conviction rate is something you'd expect from a country like China or Iran, not Canada.

Then again, banning words — even offensive words — isn't a Canadian tradition, either. We debate people we disagree with, or we ignore them. We don't have the government prosecute them.

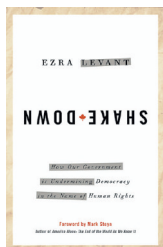
My case, and a similar case involving Mark Steyn and Maclean's magazine, brought the hidden worlds

of HRCs into the light. Since then, politicians and journalists alike have condemned them for their un-Canadian attempts to censor citizens.

Freedom of speech is something we take for granted, so we rarely think about it. But the price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

We've got to reform these HRCs, to get them out of the censorship business. And we've got to remind Canada's other censors — from university "speech code" enforcers to the radio and TV regulators at the CRTC — that freedom is a Canadian value and we won't give it up easily.

Ezra Levant is the author of *Shakedown*. A lawyer by profession, he was the publisher of the *Western Standard* magazine, which reprinted the Danish cartoons of Muhammad.



Views

More hints Kelly is making run for premier

UrbanCompass

Paul McLeod



metronews.ca/mcleod

No matter how awful your job might be, it's probably better than being mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

As mayor, when you aren't sitting through a gauntlet of soul-crushing meetings, you're forced to attend every tea party and ribbon-cutting under the sun (and probably exposing yourself to swine flu).

You don't even get much real power. The mayor is more or less a glorified city councillor, except people actually know your name. If not for the decent salary and the fact that people re-

fer to you as "your worship," then you'd have to probably pawn the position off on Kijiji.

Which is why we may soon see HRM Mayor Peter Kelly trying to change his title to premier. It's long been openly speculated that Kelly wants to make a jump to provincial politics, and it keeps looking more obvious.

Kelly announced this week that he strongly opposes a provincial election because it could delay stimulus money flowing to Halifax. It's not a crazy position for a mayor to take, but his comments were eerily identical to those of the premier.

Rodney MacDonald and his crew have picked "it will delay stimulus money"

as their main talking point against having an election. Kelly, who has long had ties to the Tory party, has now given them more ammunition.

Kelly has also been holding fundraisers to raise thousands of dollars for a war chest just months after winning a new four-year term as mayor. So, yeah, it's not exact-

ly crazy to think he's gearing up for a run as provincial Tory leader. It would be interesting to see how Kelly performs in the relative spotlight of provincial politics. After all, this is a guy who never saw a simple word (let's say "school") he didn't know how to turn into bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo (say, "educational institu-

tion.")

So I guess he would fit right in.

But with the experience of two terms as mayor and a slew of things like HRM-byDesign he can take credit for, Kelly could make a strong run.

Of course, for Kelly to take over as leader of the Tories the job would have to be vacant. Apparently, there's been some election rumours recently, so MacDonald is going to have to fight to keep the gig against what polls would suggest are some tough odds.

So maybe we'll soon see our humble mayor moving on up in the world. If nothing else I'm sure he'd love to never have to swim in Halifax Harbour again.

Paul McLeod is a staff reporter at Metro Halifax. He's currently in rehab for being a political junkie. It's going badly. Contact paul.mcleod@metronews.ca.

WHAT YOU HAVE IS GOING AROUND VANCOUVER, BUT IT'S NOT SWINE FLU.



MICHAEL DI ADORNI

Letters

What's the real driving force behind plastic bag campaign?

I just came from the Atlantic Superstore — without my groceries. When I got to the checkout they wanted five cents per bag to pack it.

This is another example of society pandering to special interest groups or using the word "green" to make themselves look good. These bags are 100 per cent recyclable and go in with the other plastic products in your separated garbage.

Superstore, in its self-serving ads, tells us how many of these bags go into landfills.

People use them as kitchen catchers in many cases — that's why they are in landfills. I forgot though, Superstore sells plastic garbage catchers, doesn't it? Could this be one of the driving forces behind its "green" stand?

Next time I will take my Superstore plastic bags with me to the grocery store, but it will be to Sobeys.

BRUCE DEVENNE,
LOWER SACKVILLE

Madonna's latest adoption attempt sparks outrage

Re: Madonna hires crew for Mercy (April 24)

Let me describe my reaction on the bus as I read this. I became filled with anger, then resentment, finally replaced by rage, so much so that I dropped the paper and refused to read one other article.

Having regained my composure, I asked two people sitting behind me what they thought about this article. I asked them whether they thought it absurd and insulting that a surgically enhanced, artificially dyed woman in her 50s should be seen as the saviour of a three-year-old girl in an African orphanage.

I also asked them whether they thought this amounted to a modern day version of buying a little girl. Both commuters found the article offensive and vile. Is the Third World to be viewed as in need of salvation by a woman who likes to on occasion crawl on the floor in front of the masses.




DORSA ZARRABIAN, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



Canada is lagging behind the rest of the world when it comes to business innovation, a trend that could undermine efforts to strengthen its economy, says a new report. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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Canada taking stake in Chrysler

Governments to give \$2.42B

Canada's government will take an ownership stake in troubled automaker Chrysler in exchange for more than \$2 billion US in loans under a sweeping North American rescue plan, government officials said on Thursday.

Chrysler filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the United States earlier in the day and also entered into an alliance with Italian automaker Fiat SpA.

The Canadian government, along with Ontario, will provide \$2.42 billion in financing to assist with the restructuring process.

Guarantee

The Chrysler agreement includes clauses that guarantee the company maintains 20 per cent of its North American manufacturing footprint and investment in Canada

Under the terms of the deal, Canada will take a two per cent stake in the revamped Chrysler and will have one director on its nine-member board.

The deal may form the blueprint for a similar arrangement with General Motors Corp. **REUTERS**

Manufacturing rises, cushions decline in GDP: StatsCan report

ECONOMY Manufacturing output in Canada rose in February for the first time since July, boosted by a recovery in autos and limiting the fall in gross domestic product to 0.1 per cent, Statistics Canada said on Thursday.

It was the seventh straight monthly fall in GDP and left GDP 2.3 per cent lower compared with a year earlier.

But the monthly decline was significantly less than the 0.7 per cent fall back in January, which saw a particularly weak auto sector.

Motor vehicle and parts manufacturing jumped by 19 per cent, the first rise since June.

Overall manufacturing managed to edge up 0.1 per cent, as did the service sector.

Oil and gas extraction also rose, but construction, wholesale and retail declined. **REUTERS**

The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Security training deal:

MacDonnell Group has signed a licence agreement with the College of the North Atlantic in Doha, Qatar, that gives CNA-Q the rights to deliver MacDonnell Maritime Security Training Programs throughout the Middle East.

Executive buys into marketing firm:

Marketing executive Wayne Sumarah has purchased 50 per cent of Impact Communications Group, a 14-year-old Halifax marketing firm.

Mine blasting in works:

Stellarton residents who live near the Pioneer Coal strip mine have started getting letters advising them that the company is looking at doing some blasting to get to a coal seam.

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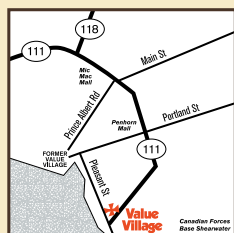
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AOL appoints Google exec to head advertising

AOL said on Thursday it has appointed former Google Inc. executive Jeff Levick as president of global advertising and strategy. **REUTERS**

business 9

Quiznos closes stores amid outlets' lawsuit

Franchisees allege overcharging for supplies

The president of a group of disgruntled Quiznos franchisees says the fast-food chain has been granted a court injunction, forcing him to close his three Oakville, Ont.-area restaurants.

Doug Johnson said the injunction, effective yesterday, was ordered within days of another court ruling allowing the franchisees' lawsuit against Quiznos to proceed as a class action.

The franchisees allege in their lawsuit that Quiznos is overcharging them for supplies. The allegations

Purchasing

Doug Johnson said he can buy cheaper V8 juice at the supermarket than he can from Quiznos' supplier, and he could negotiate a better deal with Coca-Cola to supply his stores directly.

have yet to be proven in court.

Quiznos plans to seek leave to appeal the class-action certification to a higher court, Geoffrey Shaw, a lawyer with Cassels, Brock and Blackwell LLP, wrote

in an email, noting that the class-action certification was "conditional."

Johnson said he believes Quiznos wanted to close his stores to frighten other franchisees away from joining the lawsuit.

Quiznos said in court documents it sought the injunction because Johnson was in default of his franchise agreement.

Quiznos said Johnson and his partners were selling under-portioned sandwiches, refusing to participate in promotions and failing to provide delivery services. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Business in brief

FLU Fear of swine flu has led to a brisk uptick in business at U.S. and Canadian drugstore chains as hand sanitizers, antibacterial soap, gloves and face masks fly off the shelves, but it may be too early in the course

of the epidemic to gauge the impact in other retail sectors.

FORECAST The longest U.S. recession in more than a half-century will probably end before the summer is out, accord-

ing to the Economic Cycle Research Institute. The group said Thursday enough of its key gauges have turned upward to indicate with certainty that a recovery is coming. **REUTERS**

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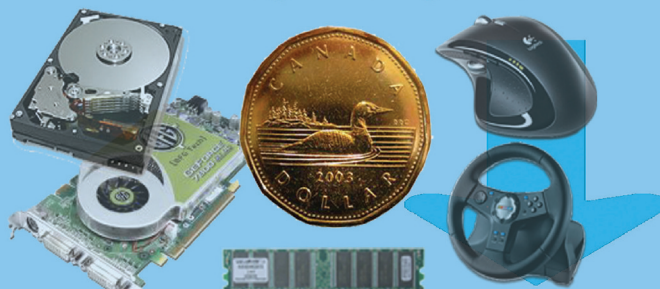
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Detroit's Chris Chelios, Nashville's Steve Sullivan and Florida's Richard Zednik are the finalists for the NHL's Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy. The award is presented each season to the player who "best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey". **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Molitor bout shelved due to swine flu

Canadian boxer Steve Molitor is facing a delay in his quest to regain a world title, and his promoter says swine flu is to blame. Molitor was scheduled to fight a tune-up bout tonight in Mexico before the spread of the disease prompted a postponement. IBF rules prevent fighters coming off knockout losses — like what happened to Molitor against Celestino Caballero in November — from being top contenders, so winning against a hand-picked opponent was supposed to keep him eligible for the No. 1 ranking. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



The faces of the NHL face off

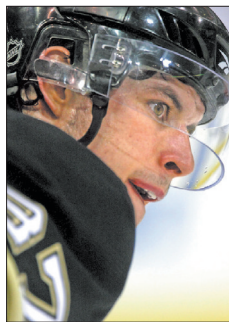
MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The NHL couldn't have scripted the playoff collision of Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin any better.

Crosby and Ovechkin, winners of the past two MVPs and the faces of the NHL since breaking into the league in 2005-06 after the lockout, have built a slow-burning rivalry that has engaged media and fans alike over the past four seasons.

Throw in Crosby's running mate, Art Ross winner and Hart Trophy candidate Evgeni Malkin, and the flamboyant Ovechkin's supporting cast, Alexander Semin, and Nicklas Backstrom, and the league has a match made in heaven.

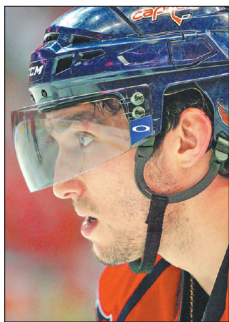
"It makes for a great story, makes for great media, makes for a great prod-



uct," said Penguins head coach Dan Bylsma. "Hopefully, all of hockey can capitalize on it."

Crosby has shown disdain toward Ovechkin's flashy goal celebrations, while Ovechkin once said Crosby "talks too much." Semin, meanwhile, threw his two cents into the equation, saying "What's so special about (Crosby)?"

All of this raised the profile of the Crosby-



Ovechkin rivalry.

Capitals head coach Bruce Boudreau, a standout forward with the Nova Scotia Oilers in his playing days, said there is no issue with the back-and-forth jawing that has gone on.

"Any word said is picked up and magnified," he said.

"I watch my Alexes and there is no animosity or vindictiveness (toward Crosby) but anything they

"It makes for a great story, makes for great media, makes for a great product."

Dan Bylsma

say will be picked up and it's the top news. I don't want them to change who they are."

Beyond the drama, the hockey should be fast-paced and free-wheeling.

It features the only 100-point scorers in the NHL the past two seasons and the past three scoring champions, and fans tuning in could be in for a treat.

Said Bylsma: "At a time when we're trying to grow our game, we have a lot of special young players and to get them going head-to-head against each other is an amazing thing."

NHL Canucks ground 'Hawks



The Canucks' Ryan Kesler knocks Chicago's Andrew Ladd to the ice Thursday. Vancouver downed the Blackhawks 5-3. For a complete recap, visit metronews.ca/sports.

Canada continues domination

HOCKEY Steven Stamkos potted a pair of goals with an assist and Martin St. Louis added a score and a helper as Canada downed the Czech Republic 5-1 in Group F play at the 2009 IIHF World Hockey Championship in Switzerland. Canada pumped home three power-play goals, two by Stamkos and one from Weber, in less than 10 minutes in the first period and Mason held strong for the remainder of the contest. Canada is now 4-0 at the tournament and is a scorching 12-for-24 with a man advantage.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rottier appears to be consensus No. 1 in CFL draft

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Bob O'Billovich and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats are in an enviable position heading into the CFL draft.

Not only does the Ti-Cats general manager have the top pick in Saturday's annual event, he also has the No. 3 pick, and both will help him retool after a 3-15 campaign.

O'Billovich long ago identified the top three prospects as Alberta offensive lineman Simeon Rottier, Bishop's running back Jamall Lee and Laval defensive lineman Etienne

"It doesn't necessarily mean that's the guys you're going to pick."

Bob O'Billovich

Legare. But Lee threw a wrench in O'Billovich's plans this week when he signed an NFL contract with the Carolina Panthers.

"I don't think we'd use a first round pick on him — we feel more like we need somebody who will be at our camp," O'Billovich said.

"We're going into draft like he's not there."

But unless the Toronto



Rottier, above, and Laval defensive lineman Etienne Legare are both on Hamilton's radar.

Argonauts use the No. 2 pick on Lee, O'Billovich would likely have to look

outside his top three in the No. 3 slot.

That group is led by Acadia receiver Matt Carter, ranked fourth by the CFL Scouting Bureau, and Calgary offensive lineman Dylan Steenberger, ranked fifth.

O'Billovich said he already has an abundance of good, young offensive linemen, and plans to draft as much on need as on selecting the best player available.

"We have a high regard for those two players (Rottier and Legare)," said O'Billovich. "But there are other players at other positions we are going to con-

sider. It's fine to rate guys, but it doesn't necessarily mean that's the guys you're going to pick. If we're not in need of those positions, we might be more interested in someone else."

The B.C. Lions hold the fourth, fifth and sixth selections and have made no secret about the fact they'd trade any combination of those picks to move up in the draft.

Saturday

• TSN's live television coverage of the first two rounds of the draft starts on Saturday at noon.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

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Chicago at Vancouver
FRIDAY'S GAMES
Anaheim at Detroit
Carolina at Boston

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Orlando 114 Philadelphia 89 (Orlando wins series 4-2)
Chicago 128 Boston 127 (OT)
Portland at Houston

FRIDAY'S GAME

Atlanta at Miami

MLB

THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS

Kansas City 8 Toronto 6
Oakland 4 Texas 2
N.Y. Yankees 7 L.A. Angels 4
Tampa Bay 13 Boston 0

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS

St. Louis 9 Washington 4
Arizona at Milwaukee
Florida at Chicago Cubs
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers

Bulls still alive after triple OT classic

After a thrilling triple-overtime sixth game, the Chicago Bulls and Boston Celtics will play a decisive seventh game.

Derrick Rose scored 28 points and blocked Rajon Rondo's potential game-winning shot. John Salmons scored 35, and the Bulls beat the defending champions 128-127 in triple overtime Thursday night to tie the first-round series at three games apiece. Ray Allen scored a career playoff-high 51

NBA 2009 Playoffs

points for the Celtics.

Four of the six games in the series have now gone to overtime, including one that needed two extra periods.

Rondo penetrated and pulled up on the left block with eight seconds left and turned, only to be rejected by Rose. The rookie of the year then missed two free throws with 3.2 seconds re-

maining, before Rondo launched a harmless heave from beyond midcourt.

Magic 114 76ers 89

Rashard Lewis and Rafer Alston combined to score 50 points with Dwight Howard serving a one-game suspension, as the Orlando Magic notched an impressive 114-89 series-clinching win in Game 6 of their Eastern Conference quarterfinal matchup with the Philadelphia 76ers.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Bulls coach Vinny Del Negro, left, restrains Kirk Hinrich during an altercation with Boston's Rajon Rondo Thursday.

Former Moosehead Benedict in Central Hockey League final

Former Halifax Mooseheads star Brandon Benedict has advanced to the Central Hockey League final with the Texas Brahmas. He started the season in Denmark, but returned to North America after his team went bankrupt. **METRO HALIFAX**

sports **11**

Varsity league will be 'tough': Mustangs coach

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

If the Metro Mustangs win their third straight Nova Scotia Varsity Football League crown this summer, it won't come easily. Not according to their head coach.

"It's going to be tough this year," said the Mustangs' Rob Morgan. "No teams are showing signs of weakness and there's a lot of balance. Our work is definitely cut out for us."

The Mustangs have won the past two under-20 championships in the NSVFL, which was established in 2005.

Sackville's Ben Rossong and Charles P. Allen's Andrew Healy, MVP winners of their respective high school tiers last fall, lead the Mustangs' potentially explosive attack. The two quarterbacks are expected to share field time evenly.

Running back Zack Clarke, Rossong's high school teammate, will be the key to the Mustangs' ground game.

"Rossong and Healy will

About the league

- **TEAMS:** Halifax Hornets, Metro Mustangs, Valley-Windsor War Dogs, Dartmouth Knights.

- **KICK OFF:** Friday at 6 and 8:30 p.m. at Huskies Stadium.

- **CHAMPIONSHIP:** Friday, June 26 at Huskies Stadium.

be a key for us on offence but we should have a pretty balanced attack," said Morgan.

"We've lost some key players defensively and have some building to do. Offensively, we'll be as strong or stronger (than last season)."

The under-20 league features the province's top high school players and some university players, including Dartmouth Knights running back Nick Downey of Acadia.

The Mustangs, Knights, Halifax Hornets and Valley-Windsor War Dogs comprise the four-team circuit. All teams are in action on Friday at Huskies Stadium starting at 6 p.m.

Voltigeurs, Cataractes to play for QMJHL title

PRESIDENT'S CUP Two teams that have never won the President's Cup are set to do battle in the QMJHL final starting Saturday.

The Drummondville Voltigeurs host the Shawinigan Cataractes at Marcel Dionne Centre on Saturday and Sunday as the

best-of-seven series gets underway.

The two teams finished atop the QMJHL regular season standings.

Nova Scotians Alex Grant (Antigonish) and Ashton Bernard (Eskasoni) are on Shawinigan's roster. **METRO HALIFAX**

Tigers add star QMJHL blue-liner

CIS The Dalhousie Tigers men's hockey team has recruited high-scoring QMJHL blue-liner Benoit Gervais.

The six-foot-three 204-pounder was second in QMJHL defence scoring last season with the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies, piling up 17 goals and 45 assists for 62 points in 62 games.

Gervais joins former P.E.I. Rocket teammate, goalie Bobby Nadeau, in Dal's 2009 recruiting class.

The Tigers could use a boost. They've missed the playoffs the past five seasons and have lost 113 of 140 games.

METRO HALIFAX

Subways forward top N.S. prospect

QMJHL DRAFT Dartmouth Subways forward Cole Hawes is the top-ranked Nova Scotian for the QMJHL draft in June.

Hawes, a Tangier native, is ranked in the second round, 20th overall, after scoring 21 goals in 37 games.

Other Halifax-area players on the list are Halifax Lions junior A defenceman Ian Saab (4-56); former Subways forward Kody Orr (4-63); Halifax McDonald's midget goalie Richard Tingley (4-69); Cole Harbour McCain midget blue-liner Brendan Duke (5-77); and Subways forward Cody Peveril (5-81). **METRO HALIFAX**

Human Swine Influenza in Nova Scotia

Dear Fellow Nova Scotians:

Public health professionals in partnership with all district health authorities across Nova Scotia continue to monitor and respond to human swine influenza. Nova Scotia has a strong public health system, with highly skilled and caring professionals, and I am confident in our ability to manage this issue.

The information we are providing to you on human swine influenza is likely to change. The situation is evolving rapidly, nationally and internationally, and we will keep you informed as new information becomes available.

If you do not have symptoms, it is important to remember that daily activities should continue as normal. It is safe to go to school, work and socialize. Symptoms to watch for include fever and cough in combination with fatigue, headache and sore throat.

Fortunately, the confirmed cases of human swine influenza in Nova Scotia so far have been mild, with no need for hospitalization. Any additional cases will be thoroughly investigated.

I fully expect the virus to spread, and when it does, we can expect to see more severe cases develop. We will continue to use our established public health practices and our network of health professionals to manage any additional cases of human swine influenza in the province.

If you have influenza-like symptoms, and have recently traveled to an area affected by human swine influenza, like Mexico, or have been in contact with someone who has human swine influenza, it is important to avoid close contact with others for seven days after your symptoms start. This is the time when the illness can be spread to others. Stay home from work, school, public places and avoid social settings. Minimize contact with family members as much as possible. Like any illness, should your symptoms worsen, visit your doctor or a walk-in clinic and be sure to mention your travel history.

If you are experiencing influenza-like symptoms, but have not been exposed to human swine influenza, either through recent travel to an affected area or contact with someone who has it, treat it as you would a normal seasonal influenza. Stay home, rest and drink plenty of fluids. If it gets worse, again, see a doctor.

You should also be aware that the Public Health Agency of Canada has issued a travel advisory urging all travelers to postpone non-essential travel to Mexico until further notice. Those who have to travel to an affected area, and have not received an influenza shot, are advised to get one.

We do not recommend the use of masks by the general population, as they have not been proven effective in reducing the risk of infection. Furthermore, we do not recommend the use of anti-virals such as Tamiflu for treating mild illness or for prevention.

Remember, as always, the best way to avoid illness is through prevention. Wash your hands thoroughly and often, cough into your sleeves and stay away from public places if you are sick.

For more information on human swine influenza in Nova Scotia, please visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp>

Best regards,



Dr. Robert Strang
Chief Public Health Officer
Province of Nova Scotia



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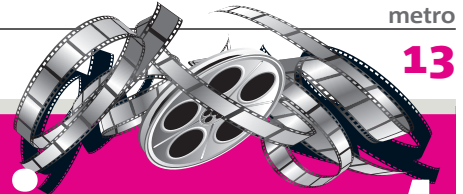
TOTAL PACKAGE EVENT

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Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.



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Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies: Still Sharp

Pg 16



Leading the charge in three popular X-Men movies turned Wolverine (and actor Hugh Jackman) into one of Hollywood's most alluring big-screen superheroes. For fans of big summer action flicks, his claws will most certainly find some traction.

movies

Pg 17



Filmmaker admits the tough task of Star Trek casting.

music

Pg 20



Say your apologies now if you've doubted Green Day.

entertainment

Pg 21



Animation: Where you don't even meet your co-stars.

"ACTION-PACKED, Adrenaline-Charged Entertainment!"

-Paul Fischer,
Dark Horizons

X-MEN ORIGINS WOLVERINE

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT A BONNERS COMPANY PRODUCTION / A SEED PRODUCTION
HUGH JACKMAN "X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE" LEE SCHREIBER DANNY HUSTON DOMINIC MONAGHAN AND RYAN REYNOLDS
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DIRECTED BY JAMES L. BRADY
CASTING BY LAUREN SHILLER JONAS BARRY WINTER HUGH JACKMAN JOHN PALLARO
EDITED BY DAVID BEATTIE AND SJP WOODS MUSIC BY GAVIN HODGSON
COSTUME DESIGNER ALAN BELLIN
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES L. BRADY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES L. BRADY AND JAMES L. BRADY
PRODUCED BY LOUIS L. LOMAX AND JAMES L. BRADY
WRITTEN BY JAMES L. BRADY AND JAMES L. BRADY
DIRECTED BY JAMES L. BRADY

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VIOLENCE

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16 movies&entertainment

At a glance

X-Men Origins: Wolverine ●●●½; Ghosts of Girlfriends Past ●●; Two Lovers ●●●●●

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●●● GOOD; ●●● FAIR; ● POOR

Sharp claws, no bite

X-Men Origins: Wolverine

Director: Gavin Hood

Stars: Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●●½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Leading the charge in three popular X-Men movies turned Wolverine (and actor Hugh Jackman) into one of Hollywood's most alluring big-screen superheroes. Now, with his origin on-screen for all to see, a mostly uninspired movie may nullify the mutant's mystique.

In fact, although Wolverine is jam-packed with action and eye-catching special effects, at 108 minutes (modest compared to most superhero movies), it may actually suffer from its own succinctness.

It all begins with an en-



Hugh Jackman, left, and Liev Schreiber play mutant siblings in X-Men Origins: Wolverine, in theatres today.

gaging prologue set in 1845, after young James Logan tragically discovers the spiky claws that occasionally protrude from his knuckles.

From there, director Gavin Hood (Tsotsi) treats us to a stylish but inexplicable decades-spanning credit sequence featuring Logan and his brother Victor (whose mutant gifts include the razor-sharp "fingernails of a bag lady") battling together through the

Civil War, two World Wars and Vietnam.

They're either immortal or extremely youthful-looking for their age — we're to presume.

Eventually, they find themselves in a secret organization of mutants led by the diabolical Colonel Stryker (Danny Huston). But after Logan abandons the corrupt squad, he is forced into defending himself from his now-vengeful brother and

On the web

For movie screen times and film trailers and pictures visit metro news.ca/movies.

Stryker's deceptive experiment to enhance mutant powers.

Several other mutants pop up along the way (including the as-yet unnamed character Cyclops) but as mildly-amusing as their appearances are, many seem extraneous or simply underdeveloped. As well, hardcore fans may take issue with a few liberties in the folklore.

While Wolverine may not appease those dedicated followers of the X-Men hero, for other fans of big summer action flicks, Wolverine's claws will most certainly still find some traction.

• To see a X-Men Origins: Wolverine trailer, or for screen times, visit metro news.ca/movies.

Leads lift Lovers

Two Lovers

Director: James Gray

Stars: Joaquin Phoenix, Gwyneth Paltrow

Classification: 14A

Rating: ●●●●●

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW James Gray's superb 2007 thriller *We Own the Night* concluded with an affirmation of love wracked by painful ambivalence, and his follow-up, *Two Lovers*, ends on a similarly devastating note.

It's not that the film, which borrows narrative elements from Fyodor Dostoevsky's short story *White Night*, contains much in the way of surprise.

From the moment that bipolar amateur photographer Leonard (Joaquin Phoenix) locks eyes on his gorgeous blond neighbour Michelle (Gwyneth Paltrow) in the hallway of

the Brighton Beach apartment complex where he lives with his parents, it's apparent that we're dealing with a one-way attraction.

What makes *Two Lovers* so affecting, then, is how seriously it takes its protagonist's lovelorn condition — in lieu of a Hollywood *Meet Cute*.

Gray gives us an empathetic yet faintly disturbing portrait of all-consuming obsession.

A lot of the credit is due to Phoenix's terrifically modulated lead performance.

But Gray, who is frequently mischaracterized as a macho auteur, also gives us two compelling female characters.

Besides Paltrow's credibly damaged, endlessly self-destructive party-girl Michelle, there's also Sandra (Vinessa Shaw), an introverted young woman who has been positioned as a love match for Leonard by his overbearing parents.

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ALL'S FAIR WHEN LOVE IS WAR.

OBSSESSED

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PRODUCED BY DANNON LEE JEFF GRAP PRODUCED BY WILL PACKER WRITTEN BY DAVID LOUGHERY
DIRECTED BY STEVE SHILL

14+ SEXUAL CONTENT LANGUAGE MAY OPEN

AreYouObsessed.ca

NOW PLAYING

Check Theatre Directory or SonyPicturesReleasing.ca for Locations and Showtimes

Adoption advice rumours false: Source

Looks like Jennifer Aniston isn't following in ex Brad Pitt's footsteps. Tabloid Star reports that Pitt is giving Aniston advice about adopting a baby boy. "They are completely wrong," a source tells usmagazine.com. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**Movies**

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Fresh enterprise

Director in search of the human in Star Trek

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News



As a filmmaker, J.J. Abrams has already had an impressive career, from creating iconic television series like Lost, Alias and Felicity to having a hand in movies as diverse as Regarding Henry and the most recent Mission: Impossible.

But in bringing his latest, *Star Trek*, to the screen, he faced a new obstacle: How to take a 40-year-old franchise with 10 films under its belt and make it fresh and interesting.

"The audience is very sophisticated now, so it had to work on a level that they didn't have to worry about in 1966," Abrams says. "I never felt it was real. A lot of that had to do with resources they had."

Abrams came on board fairly unfamiliar with the *Star Trek* franchise, something that certainly had a lot of die-hard fans worried. "I never quite got it the way certain people did," he admits. But he saw

Movie feature

that as an opportunity rather than a drawback. "I thought that was a cool challenge, to create a *Star Trek* that was appealing to me."

To make that possible, Abrams focused less on the technical aspects and more on the human — and Vulcan — factor. "I was never worried about the visual effects, I was never worried about the design," he explains. "What I was worried about was finding actors who would make this feel real."

While most of the cast fell into place, Abrams was most concerned with finding his two leads, Capt. Kirk and Mr. Spock. "I thought

"Zachary Quinto walked in and I just gasped. It was so obvious he was born to play (Spock)." J.J. Abrams

Spock would be the hardest character to cast," Abrams says. "But Zachary Quinto walked in and I just gasped. It was so obvious he was born to play this part."

Finding someone to take on Kirk, a role over which William Shatner casts a long shadow, was more daunting. "Kirk was the last

person we cast," Abrams says.

• *Star Trek* hits theatres across Canada next Friday.



A scene from the rebooted version of *Star Trek*, in theatres next week.

Potter summer's hot favourite: Poll

SURVEY Movie fans expect British boy wizard Harry Potter will magically rule box offices in the upcoming summer blockbuster season that will see familiar faces like Sandra Bullock and breakout roles for a pair of *Star Trek* stars.

Thirty-nine per cent of respondents in an online poll released Thursday by AOL website Moviefone.com named Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince the summer movie they most want to see. Sixty per cent of the 280,000 respondents said they expect the new Harry Potter movie, which opens on July 15, to be the top box office draw of the upcoming blockbuster season.

"It's going to be a big summer for Harry Potter, people absolutely love that franchise, and for the most part the films seem to get better each time out," said

Scott Robson, editor-in-chief of Moviefone.

Among the most anticipated movies, the sixth instalment in the Harry Potter saga was followed by: 29 per cent for *Star Trek*; 12 per cent each for *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* and *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*; seven per cent for *Terminator Salvation* and two per cent for comedy *Bruno*.

The Moviefone poll did not include expected blockbuster *Angels & Demons*, an adaptation of Dan Brown's novel that debuts May 15 and follows on 2006's *The Da Vinci Code*, which made \$758 million at worldwide box offices.

In another category, 43 per cent of those polled named magazine pinup Megan Fox, 22, as the actress they most want to see this summer.

REUTERS

"The most winning date movie of the year."
—Jeanne Wolf, PARADE.COM

"Hilarious! McConaughey and Garner deliver."
—Jim Ferguson, ABC-TV

"Laugh-out-loud funny and refreshingly smart. The perfect way to start the summer!"
—Mike Sargent, WBAL RADIO

"McConaughey and Garner have perfect chemistry."
—Gerrad Hall, REELCHANNEL

"Funny and charming... a must-see film!"
—Stuart Lee, WNYX-TV

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Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Dead on arrival

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past

Director: Mark Waters
Stars: Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner
Classification: STC
Rating: ●



Jennifer Garner and Matthew McConaughey star in Ghosts of Girlfriends Past.

NED EHRBAR
 Metro World News

Charles Dickens' beloved and oft-imitated A Christmas Carol gets another swipe taken at it with Ghosts of Girlfriends Past, a movie clearly thought up title first.

Matthew McConaughey stars as Matthew McConaughey, though we're told he's playing Connor Mead, a celebrity photographer and serial womanizer who was born and raised in Massachusetts, despite his perma-tan and Texas accent.

He ventures home for

the wedding of his brother, played by Breckin Meyer (several shades paler and a good head shorter than McConaughey) and proceeds to bah-humbug the whole celebration in a not-terribly-convincing down-with-love drunken tirade. Of course, there to challenge his status quo is the one who got away, played begrudgingly by Jennifer Garner.

After a particularly impressive scotch intake, Connor runs into the ghost of his dead uncle (Michael Douglas), who warns him

that he will be visited by three... well, you know the rest. The ensuing flashbacks serve solely to make fun of hairstyles and music from the past 25 years, which are apparently funny only because they are no longer popular. Good to know.

But the movie's greatest sin — and there are many, from a forced and lifeless wedding cake catastrophe to an actual rain of used condoms — is its pervasive misogyny. Douglas' character gets to spout most of the woman-hating bromides, because he can get away with since he's from a bygone era (or so the filmmakers' logic seems to go). In the end, Connor learns his lesson and every single character — even the most minor, some of whom never even had dialogue — is painstakingly paired off. The movie thinks it's charming, but it really isn't. Much like its protagonist.

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Stephen Cole, GLOBE & MAIL

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John Anderson, NEWSDAY

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Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES



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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAY 1 TO THURS., MAY 7. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

HALIFAX

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17 Again (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:15-1:20-3:40-3:45-7:15-7:30-9:45-10:10
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-1:20-3:40-3:45-7:30-10
Adventureland (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:45-3:30-6:35-9:55
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:45-3:30

Crank: High Voltage (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:35

Earth (G) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-2:0-7:20

Fast & Furious (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:35-9:20

Fighting (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:15-9:55

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:35
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 1:35-4:15-6:50-9:35
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:35

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-7:10-9:30

I Love You, Man (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:25-4:20-7:05-9:35

Iron Maiden: Flight 666 (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 9:30

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 7:9-9:20

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:50-3:30-6:40-9:10
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 12:50-3:30-6:40
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 12:50-3:30-6:40-9:10
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:50-3:30-6:40-9:10

Obsessed (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 1:10-4:05-6:40-9:50
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 1:35-4:05-6:40-9:50
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 1:10-4:05-6:40-9:50

The Soloist (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:40-9:30

Star Trek (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No

Passes Thu 7:15-10:05
Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 7:9-35

State of Play (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-6:50-9:40
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:40-1:20-3:30-3:45-4:10-6:35-7:30-9:15-9:40-10
Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed 12:40-1:20-1:45-3:30-4:10-4:20-6:35-7:30-9:15-9:40-10
Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 12:40-1:20-3:30-3:45-4:10-6:35-7:30-9:15-9:40-10

IMAX

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Monsters vs. Aliens: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:20-4:10-9:30
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 1:20-4

Star Trek: The IMAX Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 7:9-50

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Che: Part One (14) Fri 6:30 Sat 12:30-6:30 Sun-Thu 6:30

Che: Part Two (14) Fri 9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 9:30

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17 Again (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-3:10-6:35-9:05
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 3:10-6:35-9:05

Fight Club (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 11:30

Fighting (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:20-9:50
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-9:50

Hunger (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:20-3:40-7:9-9:40
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-7:9-9:40

Obsessed (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-4:7-10:9-45
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:7-10:9-45

Opus Arte: La Bayadère [The Temple Dancer] (Ballet) (STC) Stadium Seating Sat 1

The Soloist (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:40-9:25
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu

3:30-6:40-9:25
Star Trek (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 7:10

State of Play (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:20-9:10
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 3:15-9:10
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:15-6:20-9:10

Two Lovers (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:30-9
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:30-9

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:35-6:50-9:30
No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:30

LOWER SACKVILLE

LOWER SACKVILLE

760 Sackville Dr., 902-869-2022

17 Again (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:10
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9:10

Fast & Furious (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-7
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 7

Fighting (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7:15-9:30
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:15-3:40-7:15-9:30
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:30-9
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:30
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:40-3:7-10-9:30
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

Obsessed (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:20
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:30-6:45-9:20
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20

Star Trek (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 7:9-45

State of Play (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 9:25

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 6:45-9:15
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:45-9:15
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15

DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH

650 Portland St., 902-434-4200

17 Again (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:30

Digital Sat-Sun 2:10-6:35-9
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:35-9

Crank: High Voltage (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:15
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:50-6:50-9:15
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:50-9:15

Fast & Furious (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Wed 8:50

I Love You, Man (14) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:40-9:10
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:20-6:40-9:10
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:40-9:10

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:45
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:30-6:45
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:45

Observe and Report (18) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:55-8:55
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:40-6:55-8:55
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:55-8:55

State of Play (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:30-9:05
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:6-30-9:05
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:30-9:05

DARTMOUTH CROSSING

145 Shubie Dr.,
902-481-3251

17 Again (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:15-9:55
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:15-9:55
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:15-9:55
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:15-9:55

Earth (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 12:20-2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 12:20-2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55

Fast & Furious (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:25-3:05-6:25-9
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:25-3:05

Fighting (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:20-9:50

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:30-6:30-9:10

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:35-10

Iron Maiden: Flight 666 (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 9:30

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 11:55-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:40
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 11:55-2:25-4:45

Obsessed (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:35-9:30

The Soloist (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:35-9:30

Star Trek (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 7:20-10:30
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 7:40-15

State of Play (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:20-9:20

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-1:35-3:45-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:10

TRURO

TRURO

20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

17 Again (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:9-9:40
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:40-7:9-9:40
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:40-6:30-8:55
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-8:55

Fast & Furious (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:7
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:6-30
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:30

Fighting (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:10
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:10-6:50-9:10
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:10-6:20-8:40
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:20-8:40

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:20-9:45
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 3:7-20-9:45
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 3:6-50-9
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:30
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:50-7:10-9:30
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:50-7:10-9:30

Sun 2:50-6:40-8:50
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-8:50

Obsessed (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:20
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:30-6:40-9:20
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:30-6:10-8:45
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:10-8:45

Star Trek (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 7:9-40

State of Play (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 9:10
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Wed 8:40

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9
No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:20-6:30-9
No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:20-6:8-30
No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:8-30

Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 6:8-30

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER

349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

17 Again (PG) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat 1:20-3:45-6:50-9:15 Sun 1:20-3:45-6:15-8:40 Mon 6:15-8:40 Tue 9:15 Wed-Thu 6:15-8:40

Fast & Furious (14) Fri-Wed 6:35
Fighting (14) Fri 6:30-9 Sat 1:05-3:30-6:30-9 Sun 1:05-3:30-6:30 Mon-Tue 6:8-30 Wed 9:15 Thu 6:8-30

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (STC) Fri 6:45-9:10 Sat 1:15-3:40-6:45-9:10 Sun 1:15-3:40-6:05-8:35 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:35

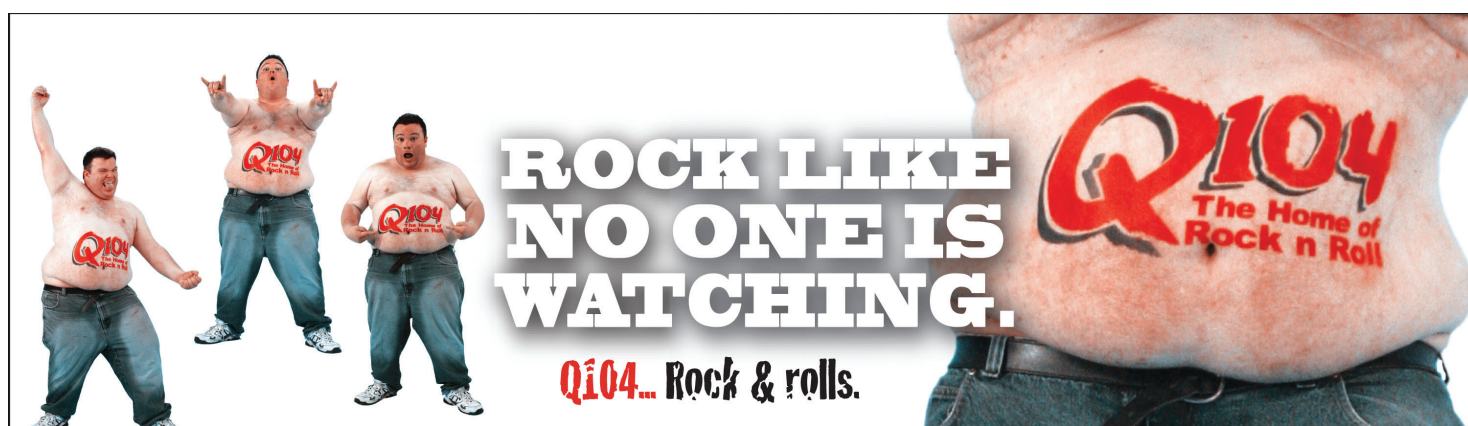
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri 7:9-30 Sat 1:30-4-7:9-30 Sun 1:30-4-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 6:30-9

Obsessed (14) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:20 Sun 1:10-3:50-6:25-8:55 Mon-Thu 6:25-8:55

Star Trek (PG) No Passes Thu 7:9-50

State of Play (PG) Fri 9:05 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:55-9:05 Mon-Wed 9:05

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG) No Passes Fri 7:15-9:45 No Passes Sat 1:35-7:15-9:45 No Passes Sun 1:35-6:45-9:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15



Music

Picking up the pieces

Lady Sovereign returns revitalized with new album Jigsaw

JASON RICHARDS
for Metro Canada

Something seemed amiss with Lady Sovereign at a certain point during her U.S. promotional tour in 2007.

Riding on a wave of hype after her Jay-Z-endorsed signing to Def Jam Recordings, the British rapper buckled under the pressure in the most public of ways. She ranted about being broke and depressed on-stage in Brooklyn, N.Y., abandoning her set after two songs to a sea of jeers.

That moment — immortalized on YouTube — marked the start of a downward spiral for the self-proclaimed "biggest midget in the game," who'd spent a couple of years prior rising from the U.K.'s underground grime hip-hop scene.

While her debut album Public Warning's first sin-

gle Love Me Or Hate Me topped charts, she failed to catch on in the States and was eventually dropped from her label.

The massive touring and publicity blitz Lady Sovereign underwent during that phase of her career was frustrating, but not without its lessons.

"I learned that there's a line that I had to draw for myself to keep myself sane and not tire myself out," she told Metro over the phone from her place in London. "Because it's not good for me or anyone else around

Jigsaw is the latest album from British hip-hop artist Lady Sovereign.

me. Trust me."

When she returned to England, Sovereign was unable to focus on music, so she took six months off and did "not much, to be honest."

"I just hung out with friends, had a social life again, just went back to normality," she says. "And that's what inspired me, really."

The fruits of that inspiration can be heard on her new album, Jig-

saw, released on her own Midget Records. The album has a much more electronic feel than her last, and finds the rapper chanting M.I.A.-style and doing a whole lot of singing — a surprise, given that "I can't dance and I really can't sing" was one of the hooks on Love Me Or Hate Me.

"Well I couldn't sing then," she says. "I kind of can now, just a little bit."

It's definitely a new direction for the 23-year-old Lady Sovereign, who uses her newfound vocal stylings to wax flirtatious on Let's Be Mates, keep the party jumping on the sultry Bang Bang and express the more, ahem, sensual aspects of cuisine on Food Play.

"I had this friend who was majorly into food and I'd always make fun of him, very tongue-in-cheek," she says, explaining the song's origins. "But I know people love that song for whatever reason."

Her new sound isn't the only dramatic change she's made, though. Gone is the trademark "side ponytail" that had been a mainstay of her image throughout her career.

"It was just one of those things," she says. "I was sitting in front of the mirror, brushing my hair, and was like 'screw this.' Half an hour later I'd left the house with my hair down."

"It looks better now, I think."

Green Day ready to release Breakdown

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

Back in the spring of 2004, when I heard that Green Day was going to launch a comeback with a punk rock opera, I kinda snorted. In my defence, so did a lot of other people.

The general consensus was that Green Day was on the downside of its career, soon to be relegated to "90s at noon" request shows. Sure, the kids seemed to dig the band when it went out on tour with Blink 182. And yeah, that greatest hits record did well. But to resuscitate a career with a punk rock opera? Seriously?

Even insiders didn't express much confidence. Secret reservations — never confirmed and always denied — were whispered that this CD would be lucky to sell 75,000 copies in Canada.

All this seems silly now. American Idiot became a mega-selling Bush-bashing opus that not only captured a surly public's mood during W's second term but also the travesty that followed Hurricane Katrina with Wake Me Up

When September Ends. The CD is within a hair's breadth of selling a million copies in Canada alone. Add in the six million(-ish) units sold in the U.S. and many more around the world — well, don't we all look foolish for having doubted Billie Joe and Co.?

So what do you do for an encore? A sequel. Naturally.

Two weeks from today, Green Day gets the equivalent of a holiday weekend movie opening for the release of 21st Century Breakdown. Hopes are so high that the band's label can't wait until the usual Tuesday to get the record out. I don't blame them. I've heard the album and I think it's brilliant. The libretto for 21st Century Breakdown is built around two American kids, Christian (a "kamikaze nihilist") and Gloria (a naive idealist). Together, the young couple are left to make sense of the world wrought by their 43rd president. Their story is told through three acts and 17 songs. (Yes, that's the official number of tracks.) It's filled with complex movements, delicate piano breaks, Beatles-esque moments and the kind of anthemic stuff that'll drive concert security forces crazy.

Butch Vig — the knob twiddler behind Nirvana's Nevermind — must have had the time of his life (no pun intended) producing this record. This is a tight, taunt, tense record, but one that still manages to end on a positive note.

I'm sorry I doubted you, Green Day. Won't happen again.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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McMahon's legal battle

Ed McMahon is set to give evidence in his legal case against a Los Angeles medical facility — from his hospital bed. McMahon is suing Cedars-Sinai Medical Center after they misdiagnosed a broken neck in 2007. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Television

Lending voices to Parker

New animated series co-stars Kristin Booth and Kim Catrall

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada



Kristin Booth has spoken to, reacted at and also stars alongside Sex and the City siren Kim Catrall ... but she's never even met her.

"I hope I get to meet her," the sprightly Genie-winning actress from Kitchener, Ont., says with a booming laugh. "That's the most challenging thing about animation. You're not generally in the studio with the other actors. You're by yourself."

Booth stars as title character Parker Novak in Producing Parker, a new prime time animated series that premieres Monday on TVTropolis. Her character is the producer of a daytime talk show, The Dee Show, where she must reconcile the neurotic habits of host Dee — voiced by Catrall.

"Dee is crazy ... basically every stereotype of an obsessive compulsive but combined with a ladder climbing, alcoholic, anorexic, self-possessed, self-obsessed woman," Booth says, laughing. "Parker has to wrangle her."

And despite having to act with an absent Catrall, Booth says the actress' effective vocalisation of Dee informed her own.

"I got to listen to some



STYLISH PHOTO

Kristin Booth voices Parker Novak and Kim Catrall voices Dee in Producing Parker.

of the stuff she recorded which helped me tremendously because I knew where she was going with Dee and how Parker would react to that and interact with the way she was playing Dee."

Still, she cites the process of acting in isolation as one of the most difficult parts of voicing an animated character.

"It's bizarre!" she says.

"You're in there and you could be falling from a building and screaming and you have to..." Booth pants "...do breath. It's all your voice. You can't show anything with your facial expressions."

But in constriction, Booth finds release. "When you only have your voice, nobody can see you," she says.

The freeing experience

watch it

• Producing Parker, a new prime time animated series, premieres Monday on TVTropolis.

allowed her uninhibited use of usually visible acting characteristics to bolster her vocal timbre. "All the weird facial expressions or contorted body movements you would probably do but you know would look ridiculous on camera you can do! And nobody but the director and engineers see you!"

Not being seen on screen might be a deal breaker for most emerging young actresses like Booth, still fresh off film festival successes like Young People F—ing and This Beautiful City. But Booth says she's always strived to work on projects she would want to watch, punctuating her passion for Parker.

"Here was an opportunity to challenge myself like I had never been challenged before and do something I've never really done before but also be a part of something groundbreaking in the way of an adult cartoon geared toward women," she says. "The things that were enticing me to it were so large, there was no way I could say no."

Hasbro, Discovery team up

TELEVISION U.S. toymaker Hasbro Inc and Discovery Communications unveiled a joint venture yesterday for a television network and website that will carry children's programs featuring brands like G.I. Joe, Transformers and My Little Pony.

The new network will replace the Discovery Kids Network and feature new content for Hasbro's brands and its existing collections as well as Discovery's own shows, such as Hi-5 and Bindi The Jungle Girl.

A name for the net-

work, expected to debut in late 2010, is yet to be decided. It will continue to operate as Discovery Kids until the rebranding is complete.

"This is a bold move by Hasbro," said BMO Capital Markets analyst Gerrick Johnson. "It fits well into their ongoing strategy of building entertainment around their brands."

Johnson questioned why Hasbro would not just sign a licensing deal for its brands, which would cut expenses and let it focus on building new toybrands. **REUTERS**

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Patrick Watson sophomore atmospheric

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada



MUSIC It wasn't long ago that Montreal's Patrick Watson was an unknown musician trekking across the trans-Canada. But, after receiving a new group of the year Juno nomination and winning the Polaris Music Prize in 2007, Watson's sophomore record, Close to Paradise, became a favourite listen among indie fans around the world.

It was a heady time for the guitarist and singer who says winning the Polaris Prize made a difference. "It was significant in Europe, maybe because the Canadian music scene is so strong," says Watson on the phone from Berlin. "It has more weight than the Junos when it comes to bands in the same scene as



Patrick Watson's new album Wooden Arms, a collection of lush, Radiohead-like tunes, was released this week.

Arcade Fire and Wolf Parade."

Now, with a dedicated fan base behind him, Watson and his band just released Wooden Arms, an atmospheric collection of

lush, Radiohead-like tunes.

The disc was recorded just after the band finished a two year tour in late 2008, so the group hasn't experienced much downtime since releasing their previ-

ous record. They have no plans to push themselves as hard this time around. "We won't tour nearly as much for this record," he says. "We don't want to do that over again."

Watson's reluctance to embark on a lengthy tour is one reason why the band churned out their new record in a matter of weeks. He wanted to release an album quickly to capitalize on all the travelling the band has done, and he hopes it's good enough to satisfy the fans that won't be seeing him play.

"We felt a little rushed," he reveals. "We could have taken a couple more weeks mixing, but, because we toured so much we didn't want to start from scratch in Europe. We wanted to keep the ball rolling until we have a spot in people's hearts."

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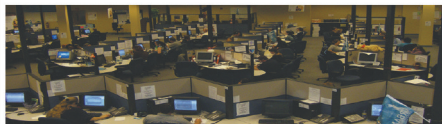
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Somebody is apparently haunting the nine-bedroom Bel Air mansion where the American Idol contestants are bunking. "Some people are convinced that there's a ghost there, especially Allison (Iraheta)," a skeptical Anoop Desai tells People. **PEOPLE.COM**

Television

Willis' action career going strong

Action stars may lose their currency as they move into their 50s. But Bruce Willis keeps on raking in the offers.

The newly remarried Die Hard star, who turned 54 last month, has been in discussions to shoot and fight his way through three indie action pictures — a thriller titled Inventory, the CIA tale Red and the mob biopic Scarpa.

In Inventory, Willis would play a detective on the trail of a murderer. It is

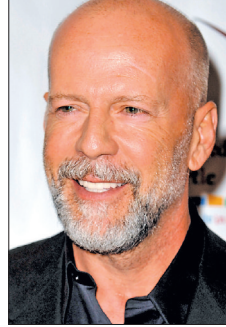
set up at NuImage/Millennium, which is handling Sylvester Stallone's latest crop of movies.

In the comic-book adaptation Red, he would portray a former black-ops agent who is forced out of retirement when a high-tech assassin comes a-calling to threaten him and his girlfriend.

Summit Films, the studio behind the Twilight movies, has made an offer on Red, and Willis' camp has counter offered,

though those with knowledge of the talks say negotiations could yet break off without the sides reaching a deal.

Willis has also been weighing an offer from Morgan Creek to play the title character in Scarpa, a mob biopic about Greg Scarpa, an FBI informant who worked deeply undercover in New York's Columbo family, though the odds are growing that Willis won't do that picture.



REUTERS Bruce Willis

Ready to laugh at Hitler?

MUSICAL Adolf Hitler is coming back to Berlin.

More than six decades after the Nazi dictator killed himself in his Berlin bunker, a character parodying Hitler will feature in the first production in Germany of the award-winning Broadway musical comedy by Mel Brooks, The Producers.

Berlin's Admiralspalast theatre — just blocks to the north of the dictator's infamous bunker — will stage The Producers — Fruehling fuer Hitler (Springtime for Hitler) from May 17.

It is the eagerly awaited German rendition of Brooks' record-setting musical about two men trying to create a Broadway flop that ran for six years with more than 2,500 performances. It grossed \$300 million in New York and \$1 billion worldwide.

Hitler was himself a patron of the same 1,700-seat Admiralspalast theatre.

But because Hitler and the crimes of the Third Reich remain a sensitive issue in Germany, local me-

"I'm convinced it's liberating for Germans to be able laugh about Hitler."

Rita Baus, artistic director

dia have questioned whether it is appropriate for Germans to laugh about Hitler.

"I think Germans are definitely ready to laugh about Hitler," said Rita Baus, the artistic director of the Admiralspalast, in an interview with Reuters in the Fuehrer Box.

"Mel Brooks has shown how totally ridiculous Hitler was and given us the chance to laugh about him. It's not just a musical comedy about the Nazis. It's a comedy about a couple of crooks. But I'm convinced it's liberating for Germans to be able laugh about Hitler."

Berlin police have nevertheless already been called over the ominous looking Nazi-like red banners.

REUTERS

FRIDAY	HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
spots	31	31	31	ABC	News	ABC News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wife Swap (N)		Supernanny (N)		20/20
prime	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap (N)		Supernanny (N)		Whistler
time	11	11	11	CBC	Jeopardy! (N)		NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA, (HDTV) (Live)						National
	32	32	32	CBS	News	Evening News	Patriots	Entertainment	Ghost Whisperer (N)		Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)		NUMB3RS (N)
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	Malcolm-Mid.	NUMB3RS "Disturbed"		Prison Break "S.O.B."		(10:01) Dollhouse (N)		News
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Spectacle: Elivs		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)		News
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Prison Break "S.O.B."		(10:01) Dollhouse (N)		Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Howie Do It		Dateline NBC		
	55	55	55	SCOR	(6) HSR		BodogFight		WWE SmackDown!				Score Tonight
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA, (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami "Fade Out"		CSI: Miami "10-7"		CSI: Miami "Broken"		CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN	News (N)		Blessings	Fish Out	Rabbit Fall	Cashing In	The Astronaut's Wife (1999, Science Fiction)		
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Territories		Bravol Fact	Books-Film	Cake (2005, Romance-Comedy) (DVS)		
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Force	Good Morning	Corner Gas	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	South Park	MADtv
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-World Blitz		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Hell-Loggers (N)		Man vs. Wild Turkey		Forensic
	48	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House	Property	House	Extreme	Ext Living	Location, Loc.	House
	46	46	46	HIST	Legends	Legends	NCIS "In the Zone"		Jurassic Fight Club		Legends	Legends	Ice Road Truck
	17	17	17	MM	Dogg After	Daddy's Girls	Springbreak.09		Born to Be	Video on Trial	A Walk to Remember ** (2002, Romance)		
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:20) Red Dawn		(8:15) Owning Mahowny *** (2003, Drama)		The Swarm ** (1978, Horror)				
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		The Best Years (DVS)		Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams
	40	40	40	SLICE	The Mom Show		Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Wild Weddings (N)		What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear		Dress
	22	22	22	W	Style by JURY	Style by JURY	Will & Grace	Friends	Most Haunted		Never Been Kissed ** (1999)		
	27	27	27	YTV	iCarly	iCarly	Material Girls ** (2006, Comedy-Drama)	Hilary Duff.	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Family Biz	

SATURDAY	HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
spots	31	31	31	ABC	News	ABC News	Legend of the Seeker		Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban *** (2004, Fantasy)		Comedy Now (DVS)		As TV
prime	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Possible Worlds ** (2000, Science Fiction)						NHL Hockey
time	11	11	11	CBC	Sat. Report	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA, (HDTV) (Live)						48 Hr. Mystery
	32	32	32	CBS	News	CBS News	Entertainment Tonight		Without a Trace (HDTV)		Harper's Island "Bang"		News
	6	6	6	CHIF	ET Canada	Masterminds	Big Business, Big Union		Doc		Doc		News
	9	9	9	CJCH	W-FIVE		Law & Order "Rapture"		Law & Order: SVU		Southland (HDTV)		News
	36	36	36	FOX	MLB Baseball	Two/Half Men	NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup -- Russell Friedman 400, (HDTV) (Live)				Southland (HDTV)		Law & Order
	12	12	12	NBC	Horse Racing: Ky. Derby		Access Hollywood (N)		Law & Order: SVU		MMA Show	Final Score	Final Score
	55	55	55	SCOR	MMA Show	Footy Show	Pacquiao 24/7	Pacquiao 24/7	BodogFight				
	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup -- Russell Friedman 400, (HDTV) (Live)						
	16	16	16	A&E	(6:30) Die Hard With a Vengeance	(1995, Action)	True Lies *** (1994, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tom Arnold.		The Mix	Living, Dream	The Green Mile *** (1999, Drama)		
	70	70	70	APTN	Cooking	MYTV	Arbor Live		Spectacle: Elivs		Scopz ** (2006, Romance-Comedy)		
	37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravol/Videos	Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Corner Gas	Blue Collar TV	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeremy Hotz
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	22 Minutes	Just for Laughs		Anderson Cooper 360		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-World Blitz		Newsroom		Anderson Cooper 360		Deadliest Catch		Criss Angel
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Time Warp	Million Dollar Listing		Makeover
	48	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Colin & Justin's Home Heist		SarahCoyle	HGTV's Top	The Four Feathers (2002, Adventure)		
	46	46	46	HIST	Ship of Ice Ship of Ice		NCIS		Crime Stories		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Muchmusc
	17	17	17	MM	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		A Walk to Remember ** (2002, Romance) Shane West.				Hollow Man (2000, Science Fiction)		
	206	206	206	PIX	As Good as It (7:45) The End of Violence ** (1997, Drama) Bill Pullman.				I Me Wed (2007, Romance-Comedy) Erica Durane.		Borat: Cultural		
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		Mutant X "Interface"		Real Housewives OC		My Wardrobe	So Chic	Matchmaker
	40	40	40	SLICE	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Real Housewives OC		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours
	21	21	21	TLC	Dateline: Real Life Mysteries		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		13 Going on 30 *** (2004, Romance-Comedy)				Confidential
	22	22	22	W	(6:30) Cuesless *** (1995, Comedy) Alicia Silverstone.				Ella Enchanted ** (2004, Romance-Comedy)				Naruto
	27	27	27	YTV	iCarly	iCarly	True Jackson	True Jackson					

SUNDAY	HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
spots	31	31	31	ABC	News	ABC News	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
prime	7	7	7	ASN	Greek		Funniest Home Videos		Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		Cold Case (N)		Medium
time	11	11	11	CBC	An American Tail		NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA, (HDTV) (Live)						CBC News
	32	32	32	CBS	Evening News	News	60 Minutes		The Amazing Race 14		Cold Case (N)		The Unit
	6	6	6	CHIF	16:9 Picture	Bob & Doug	Brothers & Sisters (N)		The Simpsons	King of Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	News
	9	9	9	CJCH	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: TNG	The Mentalist (N)		The Amazing Race 14		Desperate Housewives		News
	36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case		Sit Down	American Dad	The Simpsons	King of Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Dateline NBC "You Might Be Rich"		(Live)		The Celebrity Apprentice (N)		
	55	55	55	SCOR	Score Update	Facts-Fishing	The WWE Experience		BodogFight		Strikeforce		Poker
	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA, (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre
	16	16	16	A&E	(6:30) True Lies *** (1994, Action)		Tom Arnold		Independence Day *** (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith.				
	70	70	70	APTN	Great Towns	MYTV	The Mix	Living, Dream	Arbor Live		Tea With Mussolini (1999, Comedy-Drama)		
	37	37	37	BRVO	Spectacle: Elivs		Arts & Minds	Bravol Fact	The World's a Stage		Little Children *** (2006, Drama)		
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	22 Minutes	Just for Laughs		Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now
	18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom		Anderson Cooper 360		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters		How William Shatner Changed the World		MythBusters		MythBusters
	48	48	48	HGTV	Holmes in New Orleans		House	House	My First Place	Buy Me	Extreme Makeover: Home		Hit Potential
	46	46	46	HIST	The Last Dawn		NCIS "Skeletons"		Dogfights		Flyboys ** (2006, Historical Drama)		
	17	17	17	MM	Daddy's Girls	Meet Barkers	Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		Paris Hilton's British Friend		CollegeHmr	Dogg After	Dogg After
	206	206	206	PIX	Wayne's-2	Books-Film	Blue ** (1968, Western) Terence Stamp.		The Hunted ** (1995, Action)				
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Guard "Waheguru"		Lies and Crimes (2007, Suspense)		Estella Warren.		Rescue Me
	40	40	40	SLICE	Last 10		End of Leash	End of Leash	Tori & Dean		Real Housewives NYC		Style-Famous
	21	21	21	TLC	Untold Stories of the E.R.		World's Smallest People		Joined for Life: Abby-Brittany		Oldest Conjoined Twins		Guess Who's
	22	22	22	W	Hwd 10 Best	Shopping	Grocery Bag by JURY		Let Me Call You Sweetheart (1997, Mystery), Victor Garber		Verdict-Bld		Verdict-Bld
	27	27	27	YTV	She's the Man ** (2006, Romance-Comedy) Amanda Bynes, James Kirk.				Prank Patrol		In Real Life		Adrenaline

Actors sign on to Portman comedy

ROLES Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Rainn Wilson have joined Natalie Portman in Heshner, an indie comedy-drama that begins shooting next week. The story centers on a loser (Gordon-Levitt) who invades the life of an awkward 13-year-old who is living with a pill-popping father (Wilson) and grandmother. Portman produces and also stars.

REUTERS

In brief

RETURN The Singing Bee is coming back — but not to NBC. The musical reality competition has found a new home on cable network CMT, which plans to relaunch the former broadcast series in the summer. CMT will premiere the show after its presentation of its annual CMT Awards on June 16.

REUTERS

Kenya'sStyle

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

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Jon & Kate Plus...9?

Jon Gosselin says he isn't stepping out on his wife Kate — both from TLC's Jon & Kate Plus 8. "I have male and female friends ... However, being out with them late at night showed poor judgment on my part!" **PEOPLE.COM**

Going Out

Examining Media Issues

InDepth**Influenza A:**

Rising concerns over the recently renamed influenza A (H1N1) — formerly human swine flu — may have more people interested in learning not only about the virus, but also how things like influenza spread from person to person. Here are a few suggestions for further reading and watching:

- Health Canada (hc-sc.gc.ca), the U.S. Center for Disease Control (cdc.gov), and the United Nations World Health Organization (who.int) offer updated information on health alerts and advice to the public and professionals.
- Malcolm Gladwell's book *The Tipping Point* offers a wonderful view of how trends — and disease — spread among society and become pandemics. Recent Giller Prize winner Vincent Lam has also written a book called *The Flu Pandemic and You*, about how to prepare for the next influenza pandemic.
- CTV's *Plaque City: SARS in Toronto* offers a dramatized look at the effect the SARS crisis had on health-care workers in Toronto. The American Experience's *Influenza 1918* looks at the spread of one of the worst pandemics in world history. Visit PBS.org for more.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now**1 Mar-Der Wedding**

EVENT Grey's Anatomy's Meredith Grey and Derek Shepherd, played by Ellen Pompeo and Patrick Dempsey, are getting married. An online invitation to RSVP for the fictional couple's upcoming wedding drew 1,400 replies in the first 24 hours. The website includes a gift registry page, where visitors are invited to donate to charities that have a connection to the show's story lines.

**2 JCVD**

DVD The Muscles from Brussels shows real acting chops in this film. Part Hollywood satire, part action thriller, this movie follows Van Damme as he walks into a heist, which swiftly turns into a hostage situation.

3 X-Men Origins: Wolverine

FILM Arguably everyone's favourite mutant, Wolverine, reprised by Aussie Hugh Jackman, returns to the big screen for the first major blockbuster of the summer. This time, the adamantium-clawed superfreak is pitted against other evil freaks, a mad scientist and a brutal big brother. South African filmmaker Gavin Hood, known for his Oscar-winning *Tsotsi*, directs.

4 Japandroids

BAND This Vancouver garage-rock band is creating such a buzz that it may even drown out their characteristic distorted riffs. The group's debut full-length *Post-Nothing* has not only been feted by popular blogs on the Internet, it has also been hailed by indie tastemaker Pitchfork, which gave the record a coveted 8.3 out of 10 and a spot in its "best new music" section.

Chuck

SHOW This NBC spy-comedy may be hanging by a thin thread after wrapping up its second season this week but it has no shortage of love from fans. Dedicated viewers are using online platforms such as Twitter and food franchises like Subway to keep the show from getting axed. Even critics have joined in, literally begging the network to keep the Zachary Levy-starring show going.

6 Together Through Life: Bob Dylan

ALBUM The American Bard is battling for his fifth No.1 spot with this dark, brooding look at a country on a downward spiral. He sings in the voices of all kinds of malcontents — drifters, jealous lovers, drunks — without losing his self-deprecating wit. Choice lyric: "I'm listening to Billy Joe Shaver and I'm reading James Joyce ... Some people they tell me I got the blood of the land in my voice."

Michelle Obama

PERSONALITY Hundred days into her tenure, and the U.S. First Lady just keeps getting better and better. Not only did she make it to *People* magazine's 100 most beautiful issue, but she is also continuing her husband's grassroots-level activism in Washington. This week, she joined more than 100 congressional spouses to feed hungry children in the District of Columbia.

Mix of Six**HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY**

For more great events around the city, visit: metronews.ca/entertainment

Thom Pain (based on nothing)

When: Through May 10, 8 p.m.
Where: The Bus Stop Theatre

The East Coast premiere of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize runner-up for drama by Will Eno is in town for two weeks of shows. Tickets are \$15 and \$20, but \$30 for Friday's opener.

Bruce Hornsby

When: Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: Schooner Room, Casino Nova Scotia

The American singer, best known for the hit single *That's Way It Is* while the lead singer with The Range, is coming to Halifax for back-to-back shows. Tickets are \$75.

Symphony Nova Scotia

When: Sunday, 8 p.m.
Where: Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

The final performance in the week long Tchaikovsky Festival will take place featuring soloist James Ehnes. Tickets range from \$32 to \$47.50.

Yuk Yuk's presents Gerry Dee

When: Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m.

Where: Westin Nova Scotia
The popular Canadian comic who is becoming a household name for his work on *The Score* is bringing his humour back to Halifax. Tickets are \$32.

An Evening of Musical Entertainment

When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: United Memorial Church

An array of local talent is coming together for a fundraiser to support the LArche Community Centre in the north end of Halifax. People will be asked to make an offering.

Forces of Nature

When: Through May 31
Where: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Artists have created works of art that explore meditation, danger, and seduction in both natural and constructed land and seascapes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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MTV recently spoke to Robert Zemeckis about bringing Roger Rabbit back to the big screen, and the director's apparently considering the idea. "I'll tell you what is buzzing around in my head now that we have the ability ... I'm starting to think about Roger Rabbit," **IMDB.COM**

Roger Rabbit coming back?

Going Out

Disney to join forces with Hulu website

Walt Disney Co. has reached a deal to become a partner in the popular Hulu video website founded by NBC Universal and News Corp, the media company said Thursday.

The deal will add full-

length episodes of TV shows from Disney's ABC broadcast network like *Lost*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *Desperate Housewives* to the site.

Disney is the only other media company to join as

an equity partner, taking an ownership stake along with NBC Universal, News Corp, Providence Equity Partners and employees. While other media companies provide content to the website, none hold an equi-

ty stake.

Disney, which will gain three seats on the Hulu board, has sought to expand viewership of the ad-supported ABC shows offered on ABC.com.

REUTERS

Entertainment in brief

REMAKE How do you follow the wicked joy of zombie Nazis attacking medical students on a ski vacation? Tommy Wirkola has an idea: *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters*. The Norwegian co-writer/director of the horror comedy *Dead Snow*, a Sundance selection that IFC Films

picked up for release in June, is putting together his next cock-eyed picture. The idea will explore how things played out 15 years later. Simply put, they're now specialized bounty hunters looking to put down the cackling black-hat set.

REUTERS

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SAG contract talks

The Screen Actors Guild will mail ballots to members on May 19 to see if they will accept a two-year contract with producers. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Going Out

New film explores legacy of Hitler's top director

A new German film turns the spotlight on a man many in the country would rather forget: Veit Harlan, director of infamous Nazi propaganda movie, *Jud Süss*, a wartime hit that

helped set the tone for the Holocaust.

Harlan — Im Schatten von Jud Süss (Harlan — In the Shadow of 'Jew Süss'), which recently opened in Germany, focuses on the

filmmaker's most notorious work, looking back at his output through the eyes of the extended family he left behind.

Director Felix Moeller told Reuters that by shoot-

ing the documentary he had hoped not only to explore the previously taboo subject of Harlan, but also how the family had dealt with the legacy of his work for Adolf Hitler's regime.

"Our history as a nation under Nazism has been researched in great depth. But a lot of families still haven't done anything to find out what went on inside them," said Moeller, 43.

In interviews with Harlan's surviving children and grandchildren, the film presents a broad spectrum of responses to living with the stigma of such a controversial forbear. **REUTERS**

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Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has picked out an engagement ring, even though her boyfriend, footballer Reggie Bush, has yet to propose. She was out shopping with bride-to-be friends when she saw her perfect band. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Kim jumps the marital gun

Celebrity Buzz

Britney denies third pregnancy

RUMOUR Britney Spears has had to go on the defensive, denying claims that she's expecting a third child.

The rumour started when American Idol host Ryan Seacrest announced on his radio show that he heard from a "reliable source" that the singer is pregnant.

But Spears' spokesman says there's no truth to the story, according to the Daily Mail.

METRO
WORLD
NEWS



GETTY IMAGES

Rihanna 'reborn' in Barbados: Dad

RECOVERY While Chris Brown showed up in court in L.A. this week, Rihanna has been keeping a low profile in her native Barbados.

And her father, Ronald Fenty, thinks the time in the sun might be doing her some good.

"Chris sounds like old news to me," Fenty told Us Weekly, adding that his daughter is "a different person, back to herself. It's like Chris never existed. She seems reborn."

METRO
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NEWS



LiLo an energy drink addict?

ADDICTION Lindsay Lohan is addicted to energy drinks, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Mean Girls star — who recently "split" from her girlfriend DJ Samantha Ronson — has been gulping down bottles of the mood-enhancing soft drink to help keep her spirits high.

She said: "I drink so much of it — I love it. There are several kinds, including Neurogasm, which is for sex. But I don't need that one right now, unfortunately!"

The 22-year-old beauty — who has been to rehab

three times for addictions to alcohol and drugs — is thought to be talking about either Neurosonic or Neurotrim beverages.

Energy drink Neurosonic contains caffeine and claims to enhance moods, while Neurotrim is said to stop hunger pangs, speed up metabolism and help burn fat.

Lindsay was recently spotted taking one of

the soft drinks into Los Angeles club Bardot.

A source told Life and Style magazine: "I saw her driver tuck a bottle of something into his pocket before she went in. Lindsay told him, 'You don't need to hide it. It's just my Neuro.'"

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Bale explains infamous tirade

RESPONSE Christian Bale feels betrayed by the film crew who leaked his angry rant online, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Dark Knight star is happy to accept the backlash following his four-minute, foul-mouthed tirade against a Terminator Salvation crewmember who distracted him during a scene.

Bale acknowledges his attack was "overboard" but insists it shouldn't have been made public.

He said: "I did it, it's in the public space. I take the consequences for it. I'm not hiding from that. I

went overboard.

"I'm not making any excuses, but there is an essential trust and it's not a tacit one, which is every sound guy says, 'We are not recording, we are not even listening.' So, well, there goes that."

"I do stress though, it's not in anyway a trust that's there to cover up bad behaviour. It's not about that. I'm not whining, but it's an essential trust that's needed for creativity."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Top Gun star comes out

PEOPLE Kelly McGillis, who starred alongside Tom Cruise in Top Gun, has come out of the closet.

"It's a part of being true to yourself. That's been a challenge for me," McGillis said in an interview with website shewired.com.

McGillis, who has two children from a previous marriage, said it took her a long time to accept she is a lesbian. "I think that was an ongoing process from the time I was probably 12."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Alley talks weight loss

CONFESSION Kirstie Alley, who recently gained back the weight she had lost on the Jenny Craig program, told Oprah Winfrey she was ready to try again.

"We look around. We see what we want," Alley says on Winfrey's talk show. "I'm saying, I

think I'm ready to work."

She also admitted that quitting Jenny Craig and trying to start her own weight loss program might have been a mistake: "We're in the middle of a recession, and I decide, yes, I'm going to create my own business."

METRO
WORLD NEWS



Jess welcomes Lane home

REHAB Jessica Simpson greeted Lane Garrison after he was released from state prison early Wednesday morning, us-magazine.com reports.

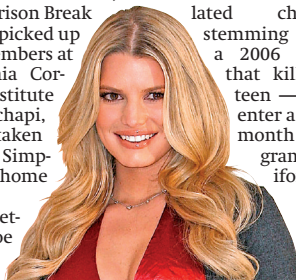
According to E! News, the former Prison Break star, 28, was picked up by family members at the California Correctional Institute in Tehachapi, Calif., and taken to Jessica Simpson's family home in Encino.

He was greeted by Joe Simpson —

Lane's former youth pastor and Jessica's father.

Garrison — who pleaded guilty to vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence and two other alcohol-related charges, stemming from a 2006 crash that killed a teen — will enter a five-month program in California.

METRO
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For the children's sake

FAMILY Tensions seem to be cooling between recently divorced Madonna and Guy Ritchie. The director is reportedly "over the moon" that the singer has agreed to let their three children stay with him for three months while she embarks on a European tour,

according to the Sun.

"Guy absolutely dotes on his children and can't wait to have them for a whole three months," a source tells the newspaper.

"He is surprised and pleased that Madonna is being so generous — as she has at times been impossible."

METRO WORLD NEWS



'Don't lose that butt!'

BODY IMAGE Anna Faris starred as a Playboy Playmate in The House Bunny and donned a bikini for the cover of Self, but these days, the actress, who plans to wed actor Chris Pratt, 29, this summer, is less concerned with her figure than ever, people.com reports.

"I am the laziest person you can imagine," Faris, 32, told People on Tuesday.

Unlike brides-to-be who work hard to slim

down before their weddings, Faris is enjoying putting some weight on — and keeping weight she already has.

"I am fattening it up!" she confessed when asked if she'll be changing her workout routine for the big day. "Now that I have a man, I'm like, 'Oh, I don't have to try any more! Now I can eat.' ... He's always like, 'Baby, don't lose that butt!'"

METRO NEWS
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Speidi brave flu in Mexico

HONEYMOON Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt decided to go ahead with their plans to honeymoon in Mexico, despite the current swine flu outbreak.

The pair was even spotted while vacationing wearing bathing suits and surgical facemasks, according to Hollyscoop.

The masks were still on when they arrived back in Los Angeles.

Montag was quick to update her Twitter account as soon as they got home,

writing, "Yah we landed! Praise Jesus! Thank you God! Thank you for my soul mate!"

METRO
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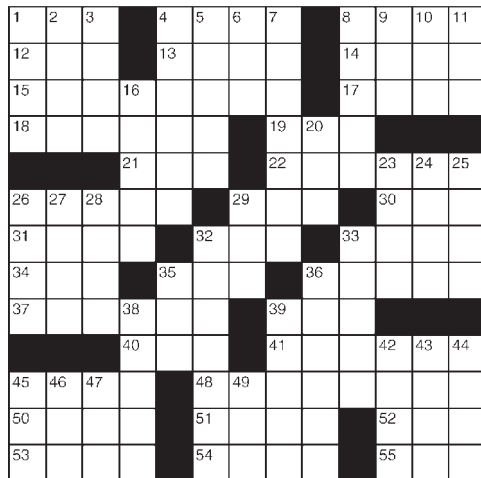
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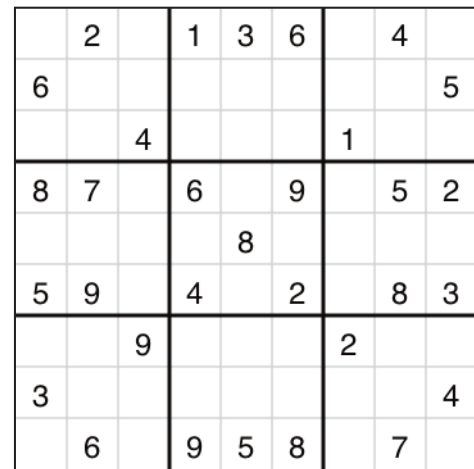
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Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Crossword across

- 1 "Humbly!"
4 Trade
8 Leno's feature
12 Expert
13 Gyro holder
14 Fight the clock
15 Michael Jackson album
17 Previously owned
18 Shadow location
19 Honest politician?
21 Chemical suffix
22 Comic "married" to Fang
26 Sired
29 Visibility hindrance
30 Galena, e.g.
31 Ear-related
32 Indulge in pugilism
33 Check bar codes
34 "— Town"
35 Tussaud's medium
36 Stickup job
37 Extremely impressive
39 Bovine utterance
40 Sapporo sash
41 Entertained
45 Piece of work
48 German poet/dramatist
50 Leak slowly
51 Subsequently
52 Swiss canton
53 Will beneficiary
54 Ethereal
55 19-Across' party

Crossword down

- 1 Decrease
2 Needing liniment
3 Roll call reply
4 Immobilizer
5 Dorian Gray's creator
6 Corroded
7 Seeming contradiction
8 Inhumane
9 Possesses
10 Capades site
11 Homer's neighbour
15 Of the upper hipbone
20 Huge
23 Places
24 History chapters
25 Musical based on "La Bohème"
26 Amazon.com buy
27 Needle case
28 Any of the Dionne quintuplets
29 Henhouse threat
32 Starbucks employee
33 South Korean capital
35 Symbol of intrigue
36 Basis for grits
38 "The Biggest —"
39 "Real Time" moderator
42 Punch
43 Architect
44 Plumbing problem
45 La-la precursor
46 "The Raven" writer
47 Submachine gun
49 Greek X

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar
17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Fava Bean, Shrimp and Feta Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can (19 oz / 540 ml) fava beans
2-3 sprigs of fresh mint
1/2 lb (250 g) feta cheese
1/2 lb (250 g) peeled, cooked shrimp

FOR DRESSING:

- 1 large lemon
6 tbsp (90 ml) extra virgin olive oil
1 clove garlic
Salt and black pepper

METHOD:

1. Put kettle of water on to boil. Put beans into pot with sprig of mint. Cover with boiling water and simmer 6 minutes. Drain and rinse beans, then drain again.
2. Drain and dice cheese.

- Put into salad bowl; add shrimp.
3. For dressing, squeeze 1/2 lemon, mix 2 tbsp (25 ml) juice with olive oil, then peel garlic and crush into the dressing. Rinse, dry and finely chop remaining mint and whisk into dressing. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Add drained beans to cheese and shrimp and stir in dressing. Serve with wedges cut from remaining 1/2 lemon.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

An exceptional person makes an alarming statement. A legal issue isn't troublesome due to reconciliation. Check out a proposed business venture.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

Ask someone to obey the rules. Don't be peeved by needless noise. A decision has been postponed.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

Don't let anyone down because you're offended. Difficulties arise when someone is huffy. A hidden agenda scares you.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

You'll have to take sides when you don't want to. Don't pry into other people's private feelings. A loved one may seem to be flawed.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

Be well behaved in public. Being optimistic will give others more hope. News of momentous events cheers you up.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

Someone refuses to be second-best. Important documents are found for a lost cause. A spend-thrift feels deprived.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

Do what you're told, if you're unsure. Don't settle for weak promises. Be sensitive to other people's exceptional thoughts.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

A sad person is found in a dusty place. Someone needs to forget about a personal loss. A demoted guy must be considered.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

A favourite person's deed has a strange effect. Consider taking longer than expected to finish a task. You'll witness marital affection.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Chaotic events produce some anxiety. You need to have more confidence in the future. A lively person can repair a precarious financial position.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

You'll inspire an amusing buddy. A big bargain will bring rewards. You'll get feedback on what you've done.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

Don't protect others from situational fallout. A relationship termination will be confusing. Use self-control and turn the other cheek in a spat.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICEY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

- Sax great Stan plays the ponies (1)
- Roring squawking seabird (1)
- More aged place-kicker's helper (2)
- Journalist band, as of Indians (1)
- Director Eastwood's windshield hucs (1)
- Followin' behind Alaska Gov. Sarah (2)
- Flat, treeless expanse's milk farms (2)

ANSWERS:
1. GILTS TINTS & DULL GILT 2. OLDER HOLLER & SCRIBE TRIBE
3. GILTS TINTS & DULL GILT 4. OLDER HOLLER & SCRIBE TRIBE
5. GILTS TINTS & DULL GILT 6. OLDER HOLLER & SCRIBE TRIBE
7. GILTS TINTS & DULL GILT 8. OLDER HOLLER & SCRIBE TRIBE

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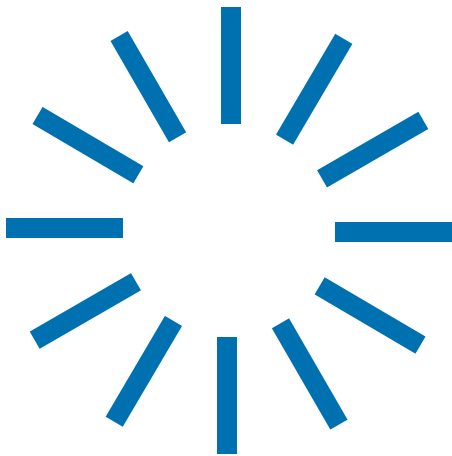
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